

Hafa Adai!

Kim-Tenorio up for retention this November. **PAGE 2**

Judge denies motion for acquittal, demand for new trial. **PAGE 5**

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Saipan Tribune



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MISS MARIANAS BETS

Candidates of the 2018 Miss Marianas beauty pageant close off a "nature-inspired" mini-fashion show with a final pose at the main entrance of the T Galleria last Sunday. The pageant itself will take place on Feb. 24, 2018, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

See more
photos on
Page 6

DOJ: CUC remains deficient

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. obtained U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval for a number of drinking water and wastewater projects, but remains deficient in a number of areas critical to the utility, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

» **Although CUC obtained EPA approval for several drinking water, wastewater projects**

Bradley R. O'Brien, a lawyer for the DOJ Environmental & Natural Resources Division Environmental Enforcement Section, said that

See DOJ on Page 4

Propst: I stand by my complaint vs Espaldon

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) slammed Guam Sen. James Espaldon on Facebook yesterday, saying in a social media post that the senator's failure to apologize to the CNMI after being entangled in a multi-

million scandal at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is both "arrogant and disrespectful."

Propst, who had filed an ethics complaint against Espaldon in late 2017 for his role in



Propst

a failed CUC procurement, said: "Let me say that it is the people of the CNMI who are owed an apology."

The CNMI lawmaker had filed the complaint against Espaldon with the

See PROPST on Page 4

Alaska quake prompts tsunami warning

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 8.2 struck off Alaska's Kodiak Island early Tuesday, prompting a tsunami warning for a large swath of coastal Alaska and

Canada's British Columbia while the remainder of the U.S. West Coast was under a watch.

The Pacific Tsunami Center forecast showed no threat to

See QUAKE on Page 4

Congressional gridlock ends; federal govt reopened

» **Kilili: First time struggling to pass budget with dominating party**

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The standoff between con-

gressional Democrats and Republicans ended yesterday after the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate

RELATED NEWS

■ **Back to work: Govt shutdown ends after Dems relent. PAGE 14**

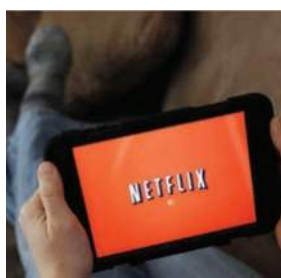
passed a continuing resolution to end the federal government

shutdown.

Members of the U.S. Congress agreed in the wee hours yesterday on a continuing resolution to run the federal government for three more

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Netflix isn't spending much time worrying about the demise of net neutrality.

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ASIA

The Philippines' most active volcano continues to spew lava and ash plumes.

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LIFE & STYLE

Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water" is expected to vie for the most Oscar.

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Local

Kim-Tenorio up for retention this November

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio is up for retention election at the Nov. 6, 2018, general election.

Kim-Tenorio, who is a judge for the CNMI Drug Court, was nominated to the bench on Oct. 3, 2013, and was confirmed on Dec. 20, 2013. Her six-year term as a judge expires in December 2019.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez said yesterday that Kim-Tenorio has until Aug. 8, 2018, to inform CEC in a letter whether she will continue with her post or not.

Aug. 8 is the last day for submission of nominating petitions and candidacy.

Under the CNMI Constitution, the question whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

Kim-Tenorio has yet to announce if she is interested in submitting to the retention election.

Kim-Tenorio earned her bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of

Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1997. In May 2001, she graduated from the New England School of Law with her juris doctor degree. She served as the legal counsel for the late governor

Eloy S. Inos and for the lieutenant governor and the CNMI Legislature.

In March 2016, U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas appointed her to serve as a designated judge in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

At the November 2017 election, Associate Judge Joseph Norita Camacho received an overwhelming vote of confidence for his retention on the bench.

In 2003, Juan T. Lizama became the first judge in the CNMI to be retained on the bench.



Kim-Tenorio



MONTHLY CLEANUP

PDM Promoters Inc.'s volunteers composed of Saipan Awaodori members and Kinpanchi Restaurant staff pose for a group photo with the 760 lbs of trash they collected during Saturday's cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See story
on Page 5

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DCCA: 'We were lucky'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The recent federal government shutdown made the specter of pulling the plug on various programs under the purview of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs "a real possibility."

This is because the department staff is a mixture of federally funded employees and locally funded employees, said DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter.

He spent most of Monday reaching out to grantor offices on what the federal government shutdown meant for the department. "A large part of [Monday] morning was trying to get some guidance but it was kind of hard to get guidance from our grantors."

Hunter said that just anticipating the impact the shutdown would have on the department made him restless, but the situation was resolved soon after.

"I was expecting to come in and find, 'Yeah, you need to shut down' but when I came in, it was all good," he added.

Hunter said most of DCCA's grantor offices were supposed to go in for four hours yesterday just to close up shop and provide guidance for the states and territories.

"Luckily for us, nothing was affected. Most of the responses we got from our grantors were 'we won't be at work and our offices will be shut down but you're going to continue with your operations because you've already gotten approved for all these grants,'" said Hunter. "We were lucky...we are okay," he added.

According to Hunter, the Aging Center was one of the programs that was at risk of being affected if the shutdown had been prolonged.

"It was one of the things we tried to get guidance on because the *Man'amko* Center deals with so many people...I did tell Walter [Macaranas, Aging Center director] to give everybody a heads-up that there is a possibility [of a shutdown] but we were waiting on guidance," he said.

As it is, DCCA will continue operations unimpeded but it will just need to make sure that the department didn't have days of obligations that they couldn't pay.

"If [the federal government shutdown] would have gone on into February, yes, we have programs that would have started running unfunded like the second week of February," he said.

Hunter is happy that the shutdown was not prolonged or the department would have faced complications.

"If this was a prolonged, we would have definitely been affected but in the short term, no," he said.



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Teacher pushes swimming program

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A teacher is working on the creation of a swimming program that could possibly equip more people with the means and knowledge to avoid drowning.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Giovanni's restaurant, Koblerville Elementary School literacy coach Valrick Welch said he is currently working on a

proposal for a grant that would fund a swimming program for the CNMI.

Welch pointed out that last year alone, about 14 drowned on Saipan, many of them young ones and a few were even professional swimmers.

"We had a lot of drowning last year. How can we fix that? We've got to get more people, we have to get everybody to learn safety, learn the basics of swimming so they can have the advantage," he said.

Welch, who has been an instructor in the CNMI Public School System since 1990, said he cares greatly for his students and they are what motivates him to create the swimming program.

"Yes, it's for the students, it's for the school," said Welch, who is also a swimming coach.

He is now working on a petition to get more people behind his proposal before he submits it to FINA or the International

Swimming Federation.

"I have a talent for writing and maybe my talent is more for getting people together because we need more people to support it to get what we want and then I will do what I can," he said.

Welch has already drafted the proposal.

"When you do a proposal, you first start with a problem. What's causing the problem? What's the result of the problem? And the problem is we

have a lot of people who don't know how to swim," he said.

The program not only aims to help students, but to also get Saipan residents back on the water to not only learn how to handle themselves in a life-threatening situation but to also reduce diabetes and other illnesses.

"We have problems with violence, we have problems with people not having any-

thing to do and very high diabetic rate, cancers, etc. This could be reduced if they're more active," he said.

"There is a grant that I am waiting to open up, usually it would open up now...this year it will probably be late but probably in the next 60 days or so," he said.

Welch is hoping for funding up to \$350,000 to supplement the program.



PASEO CLEANUP

PDM Promoters Inc.'s volunteers composed of Saipan Awaodori members and Kinpanchi Restaurant staff pick up trash from a portion of the Paseo de Marianas during a cleanup last Saturday. The group collected a total of 760 lbs of trash.

See story on Page 5

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FEDERAL

From Page 1

weeks. Hours later, U.S. President Donald J. Trump signed it into law.

Passing through the U.S. Senate with a vote of 81-18, the three-day federal government shutdown ended after agreements between both parties in the Senate resulted in Republicans promising to address those affected by the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals. Immigrants under the protection of the

program could possibly face deportation since U.S. Donald J. Trump rescinded the program last September 2017. DACA was set to end early March 2018.

In a statement, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said this was the first in modern times where a political party had control of the presidency and a majority of U.S. Congress seats but still struggled to pass a spending bill.

"Constant stopgap spending bills are no way to run the government. We still do not have a

long-term spending bill to address our defense and domestic priorities," said Sablan, adding that the bipartisan conflicts were rooted in the lack of funding for veterans' infrastructure and services; re-authorization of community health centers and health extenders; addressing the opioid epidemic; saving Americans' pensions; securing funding for disaster-struck areas such as Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and more; a budget that funds the military and the domestic investments; and

protecting Dreamers, or individuals who entered the U.S. under the DACA program.

"Congressional Democrats have been fighting for increases in funding for defense as well as domestic priorities, which we have proposed to the Republicans and sent to the President," he said.

"We continue to propose bipartisan solutions. While today's vote once again ends the shutdown, it does not diminish our leverage to pass funding for what's important to the American people," he added.

PROPST

From Page 1

Guam Legislature after finding out that Espaldon was acting as a negotiator for General Pacific Services Marianas, which had a bid for a CUC engine.

The president of GPSM, Amelia Toelkes, is the wife of Robert Toelkes, who was involved with a previous business pitch to the CNMI government on a \$160-million reverse osmosis system that did not come to fruition.

It was also learned that GPSM vice president Phil Roberto was related to then-CUC board chair Adelina Roberto. Former CUC board member

Albert Taitano also acted as an agent of GPSM.

Once these issues came to light, negotiations between GPSM and the CUC board were immediately halted.

Propst's ethics complaint against Espaldon in the Guam Legislature later resulted in a resolution that, according to Propst, effectively censures Espaldon.

During yesterday's Guam Legislature session, Propst related that Espaldon reportedly chose a closed-door committee hearing rather than one that was open to the public.

"Do people deserve to know? Perhaps. But that is not the rules," Espaldon reportedly said verbatim, according to Propst.

"In other words, Sen. Espaldon wanted to kill this resolution and his censure because of a technicality, and apparently, so did a few of his colleagues," added Propst.

Espaldon reportedly pointed out in the session in Guam that Propst's claims were mere allegations and lacked evidence.

"Yeah, we had some guy file a complaint against me from Saipan, but...they were just allegations. And when it came down to the hearing, did he present any evidence? No," Espaldon reportedly said, according to Propst's post.

In response, Propst said he was a "representative and a public servant of the people of

the Commonwealth."

"...I fought against a fraudulent \$11-million power plant 'emergency purchase' in which Sen. Espaldon was the 'chief negotiator.' This power plant emergency purchase scheme eventually led to the firing of the CUC board by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres," he said, adding that he personally discovered the fraudulent claims of GPSM, the company Espaldon represented."

He continued: "While Sen. Espaldon threatened his colleagues with 'collateral damage' if this resolution goes through and demands an apology from his colleagues, let me say that it is the people of the CNMI who are owed an apology."

QUAKE

From Page 1

the Pacific. "We are waiting for sea level data to confirm this forecast," it said last night.

The center said that tsunami waves are forecast to be less than 0.3 meters above the tide level for the coasts of Guam, Hawaii, Japan, Johnston Atoll, Mexico, Midway Island, Northern Marianas, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Russia, and Wake Island.

The strong earthquake was recorded about 175 miles southeast of Kodiak Island. Warnings from the National Weather Service sent to cellphones in Alaska warned: "Emergency Alert. Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland."

Kodiak officials warned residents to evacuate if they lived in low-lying areas.

A dispatcher at the Kodiak police department answered a call from The Associated Press by saying, "If this about the tsunami, you need to get to

higher ground immediately."

People reported on social media that the quake was felt hundreds of miles away, in Anchorage.

Keith Perkins, who lives in the southeast Alaska community of Sitka, arrived at the high school early Tuesday morning, after an alarm on his cellphone alerted him of the tsunami warning. He says the city's sirens also went off later.

He said people on Facebook were chattering back and forth about whether this was real or not and what they should do.

Given the magnitude of the earthquake, Perkins said he thought it best to head to school, the tsunami evacuation point, even though in the past he felt his home was at a "high-enough spot."

"I figured I'd probably just better play it safe," he said.

He said police officers were directing traffic and the parking lot at the school was filling up. He said he saw some people carrying suitcases or backpacks. Perkins said he didn't bring anything along. (AP)

DOJ

From Page 1

CUC is experiencing substantial and costly drinking water loss, leaks, inadequate metering and billing of its customers, and not developing maintenance manuals.

This were underscored in the U.S. government's January 2018 status report submitted yesterday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Citing EPA inspector John Tinger's declaration, O'Brien said that apart from addressing some vacancies and the submission of the draft master plan in June 2015, CUC submitted only one stipulated order 1 requirement for EPA approval since November 2014.

Stipulated order 1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater issues and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

O'Brien said that CUC must commit to the recommendations identified in the master plan.

He said vacancies in key management positions over the years have impacted prog-

ress on may stipulated orders 1 and 2 requirements—although CUC eventually filled the top positions other than the chief engineer position.

Stipulated order 2 focuses on oil issues and also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

With a new management in place, O'Brien emphasized that the timelines and plans to address the remaining stipulated orders 1 and 2 requirements must be re-established.

He said that much progress occurred in 2017 on improving CUC's oil infrastructure such as the repair of Tank 103 and secondary containment, thanks to the assistance of an Engineering and Environmental Management Company.

Tank 103, an above-ground tank, stores diesel for electric power production at CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

A status conference later this month in federal court should be used to ensure future progress without delays in completing projects, O'Brien said.

Judge denies motion for acquittal, demand for new trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court denied yesterday the motion for acquittal or for a new trial filed by one of three men who were convicted last October of bringing Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of good-paying jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour said the evidence presented showed that a rational trier of fact could have rejected the argument that complainants

manufactured evidence in order to obtain T-visas.

Coughenour said the U.S. government also presented documentary and other evidence that would allow a rational juror to infer Mohammed Rafiqul Islam's guilt.

The judge noted that there is no evidence that Islam ever worked for United Brothers Inc.

Coughenour further noted that the witness testimony and other circumstantial evidence alone were enough to support the conclusion that Islam intentionally participated in the scheme to defraud.

On the conviction as to fraud in foreign labor contracting charge, Coughenour said a rational juror could conclude from the evidence that Islam participated in the recruitment of complainants by means of false pretenses and representations regarding the jobs they would perform, the skills they would need, and salaries they could expect.

On the issue of sufficiency of evidence, the judge said he finds that Islam was not denied due process by government failure to investigate or to correct false testimony.

On the prosecutorial misconduct issue, Coughenour said that further statements about government prosecution of these crimes explain why the government chose to prosecute Islam and co-defendants and not the complainants for visa fraud and respond to suggestions from the defense that complainants themselves should be criminally prosecuted.

The judge said this did not amount to an inappropriate request for the jury to convict "on the basis of emotion rather than fact" or to "make a statement with their verdict."

CUC employee in domestic case released to a former cop as third-party custodian

The Superior Court allowed a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee facing domestic violence charges to post a \$1,000 cash and \$9,000 unsecured bond yesterday.

In granting Jose Olopai Rabauliman's motion to modify the \$10,000 cash bail, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found former police officer Tarsicio K. Olopai suitable as a third-party custodian.

The 56-year-old Olopai is Rabauliman's uncle.

Camacho said Rabauliman should be with Olopai at all

times when he is not at work and shall observe a 6pm to 6am daily curfew, among other conditions.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 29 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for the defendant. Assistant attorney general Frances Demapan appeared for the government.

The 41-year-old Rabauliman was arrested last Monday for allegedly beating up his girlfriend after her birthday party at their home in Dandan. Police said the

victim's entire face was swollen after the defendant, who was intoxicated, allegedly punched her several times.

In 2000, a jury convicted Rabauliman of kidnapping, rape, and assault and battery of two women on the morning of March 28, 1998. Three other co-defendants were also convicted. The women were taken to Suicide Cliff, where the perpetrators gang-raped them.

In May 2000, then-associate judge Edward Manibusan slapped Rabauliman with a 30-year prison term. In March 2006, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja granted Rabauliman's motion to reduce the sentence and sentenced him to 25 years in prison.

In 2008, Rabauliman was reportedly released on parole. He is currently a CUC employee assigned at the power division. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

PDM cleanup yields 760 lbs of trash

PDM Promoters, Inc. did its first cleanup of the year last Saturday, with its volunteers collecting a total of 760 lbs of trash.

The non-profit organization's 28 volunteers—22 Saipan Awaodori members and Kinpachi Restaurant staff led by Misako Kamata, PDM Promoters CEO and director—did the cleanup at Paseo de Marianas and the alleyways between Coral Tree Avenue, Beach Road, and American Memorial Park.

"PDM Promoters, Inc. is committed in organizing clean-up activities as it is our mission to clean, educate, and involve the local children through volunteerism," said PDM Promoters monthly cleanup drive coordinator Sonia G. Siwa.

PDM Promoters' cleanups are held every Saturday and are supported by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the non-profit's major sponsors, T-Galleria and TSL Foundation.

"We appreciate the help and monetary support of our two major sponsors as well as from BECQ and [the Division of Solid Waste Management] for waiving the fee for trash disposal," said Siwa.

Siwa said T Galleria and TSL Foundation's support enables them to have the cleaning materials needed on their cleanups. Kinpachi Restaurant provides the meal and snacks for the volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again in

February when it conducts its next monthly cleanup of 2018. *(Saipan Tribune)*

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UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on January 25, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency – Giovanni's Main Room

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of January 25, 2018
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2017
- V. Action Items
 - a. Review and Approve the Autism Toolkit
 - b. Ratify and Approve the Amendment of FY 2017 DD Basic Grant Budget
 - c. Approve an Amendment to the CNMI Disability Resource to include Information on CNMI Public and Private Healthcare Providers and Other Professionals
- VI. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VII. Old Business
 - a. President's Initiative – Partnerships for Innovation, Inclusion and Independence
- VIII. New Business
 - a. CRSP Volunteer Respite Training
 - b. Developmental Disabilities & Employment Awareness Month
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting - March 1, 2018
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

On the alleged cumulative effect of errors, Coughenour said in the context of the entire trial, the prosecutor's objectionable comments during rebuttal argument did not deny Islam due process or affect the fairness of the trial.

A federal jury found Islam guilty last Oct. 18 of one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

The jury found Muksedur Rahman guilty of two counts of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Rahman and Islam are brothers.

Businessman David Trung Quoc Phan, president of United Brothers Inc., was found guilty of two counts of mail

fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Coughenour, who presided over the trial, set the sentencing for March 9, 2018.

Islam, through counsel, then filed a post-verdict judgment of acquittal, attacking the sufficiency of the U.S. government's evidence to support his conviction. In the alternative, he moved for a new trial.

Assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto opposed the motion.

Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted. Another defendant, Zeaur Rahman Dalu, pleaded guilty.



Board of Trustees Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Public Comment
- V. New Business: None
- VI. Old Business:
 - A. To vote and approve Applications for Privileges for the following individuals:
 - 1) Dr. Daniel Shead
 - 2) Dr. Salman Rahman
 - 3) Dr. Muazzum Shah
 - 4) Dr. Stan Chao
 - 5) Dr. Gregory Gardner
 - 6) Dr. John Tudela
 - 7) Sylvia Taggart – Physician Assistant
 - 8) Leticia Reyes – Nurse Practitioner
 - B. To vote and approve on an evaluation system for the CEO
- VII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands BOARD OF PAROLE P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641 Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310 E-mail: govhop@pticom.com



TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that an **Executive Board Meeting** is scheduled for **February 01, 2018, Thursday, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the **Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Correctional Facility, located at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950.** The Agenda is as follows:

Board of Parole Executive Meeting Agenda

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Presence of Quorum
 - II. Consent Items
 - A. Adoption of Agenda
 - B. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
 - a. Parole Hearing Mins – September 11-12, 2017
 - b. Executive Meeting Mins – September 13, 2017
 - III. New Business
 - A. Applicants for Chief Parole Position
 - B. Interview committee for Chief Parole Position
 - IV. Miscellaneous
 - a. Schedule of next Parole Hearing
 - b. Schedule of next Executive Meeting
 - V. Adjournment
- If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/
Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman

1/11/2018
Date

Miss Marianas Mini-Fashion Show

Photos By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Miss Marianas 2016 Peachy Quitugua, left, performs the role of master of ceremonies during the mini-fashion show featuring the eight 2018 Miss Marianas candidates at the T Galleria last Sunday.



A crowd gathered last Sunday by the T Galleria's main entrance to witness the mini-fashion show, called Fashion by Nature, featuring the eight 2018 Miss Marianas candidates.



Miss Marianas 2018 candidate Eden Connor poses in one of her nature-inspired outfits during the mini-fashion show at the T Galleria last Sunday.



Miss Marianas 2018 candidate Jaiden Santos poses in one of her nature-inspired outfits during the mini-fashion show at the T Galleria last Sunday.



Miss Marianas 2018 candidate Chloe Salvosa poses in one of her nature-inspired outfits during the mini-fashion show at the T Galleria last Sunday.



Miss Marianas 2018 candidate Jaiden Santos poses in one of her nature-inspired outfits during the mini-fashion show at the T Galleria last Sunday.



Miss Marianas 2018 candidate Celine Concepcion Cabrera poses in one of her nature-inspired outfits during the mini-fashion show at the T Galleria last Sunday.



The Miss Marianas 2018 candidates pose for a photo with MAC makeup artists during the mini-fashion show at the T Galleria last Sunday.

UOG 'G is for Giving' campaign raises over \$20K

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam community, in cooperation with the University of Guam Endowment Foundation, raised over \$20,000 during its inaugural "G is for Giving" Campaign—an annual drive for scholarships for the students of the University of Guam.

This monthlong campaign, which kicked off on Nov. 28, 2017, and lasted until Dec. 31, 2017, involved students, faculty, retired faculty, alumni, and community members from Guam and the U.S. mainland to raise money for each of the University of Guam's five college units and the UOG Athletics Program.

"Si yu'os ma'ase' to all those who generously gave to the UOG's 'G is for Giving' annual giving campaign," said university president Robert A. Underwood. "We look forward to even more success in the coming years as we build a stronger university and stronger community."

Gifts ranged from \$2 to \$2,500. The largest individual donor was a retired professor living in the state of Washington. In fact, retired professors made up 30.3 percent of the "G is for Giving" total amount raised, which will be used to increase a scholarship fund they established in 2010.

The college unit to raise the most money was the School of Business and Public Administration.

"If we could get our students closer to completing their studies by helping in this way, we contribute to a public good that our island and region could benefit from," said

WAP staff to visit Tinian

Staff from the Weatherization Assistance Program of the CNMI Department of Public Works, Division of Energy Office will be on Tinian for three days to provide on-site assistance regarding the application process and the program services available to qualified low-income eligible residents.

They will be on Tinian on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 9:30am to 11:30am, at the Man'Amko Center, and from 12:30pm to 3pm at the Tinian Mayor's Office; on Friday, from 8am to 11:30am at the Tinian Youth Center.

With the services available, residents are able to make the necessary upgrades to improve the efficiency of their homes by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with ones that are energy-efficient, Energy Star-rated lightings and appliances that lower energy use to reduce high energy bills.

To avail of the program ser-



University of Guam's Giving Tuesday Team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



vice, applications are available at the Tinian Mayor's Office or you may obtain an application for services by downloading a copy of an application from our website at www.cnmienergy.com.

For additional information, you may contact Christina Babauta, program manager, or Alexandro Castro Jr., auditor, at 664-4480/4481 or fax 664-4483, Monday-Friday, except weekends and holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Thelma B. Inos, Energy director, encourages everyone in the CNMI to make their homes more energy-efficient by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with qualified energy-efficient, Energy Star-rated products.

Funding opportunity for these programs is made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy through a grant from the Weatherization Assistance Program. (PR)

and a continued supporter of University of Guam.

For the G is for Giving campaign, the Bank of Guam marketing team conducted a training workshop attended by students who later set up donation collection tables on Giving Tuesday. From Giving Tuesday until Dec. 31, donations were collected on the UOG Endowment Foundation website, www.supportuog.org, through the mail and in person, using "UOG Green" envelopes specifically ordered for the month.

"The community came together to make this...scholarship fundraising a success. We thank all of those who donated. As our student body

grows, efforts like these become more and more critical to keep higher education on Guam growing along with it," said Melanie Mendiola, executive director of the University of Guam Endowment Foundation. The University of Guam Endowment Foundation is non-profit organization that has been supporting the work of the University of Guam through fundraising and community engagement since 1988. The foundation is currently under the leadership of executive director Melanie Mendiola.

To make a donation, log on to www.supportuog.org. For more information, contact 671.735.2957 or email info@uogendowment.org. (UOG)

UOG Press, MARC Publications seeking Guam history authors and manuscripts

The University of Guam Press at the Micronesian Area Research Center recognizes a great need for contemporary history books in Guam's literary canon and is seeking Guam history authors and manuscripts.

UOG Press would like to establish a pool of writers and historians to author a comprehensive Guam history book and conduct a blind review of manuscripts, including book drafts; dissertations; collections of essays; historical fiction/creative non-fiction; graduate-level theses; etc.

about Guam's history to consider for publication

Research topics of interest include (but are no limited to):

- Chamoru people, culture, and language
- Gender and identity
- Changing family and social dynamics
- Traditional knowledge
- Indigenous practices
- Social, political and artistic movements
- Chamoru
- Cultural renaissance
- Self-determination and decolonization
- Colonization



University of Guam students later set up donation collection tables on Giving Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- Militarization
- The government of Guam
- Leadership
- Public policy
- The economy
- Historical events
- Changing landscapes
- The communities of Guam
- Regional connections
- Immigration/emigration

If you are interested in helping to author a comprehensive Guam history book, send a cover letter that describes your research interests and previous work; résumé/curriculum vitae; and

a 25-page writing sample focused on the history of Guam to uogpress@triton.uog.edu no later than Feb. 28, 2018.

If you have a complete manuscript with a distinct focus on Guam's history (including a full draft of a book; dissertation; collection of essays; historical fiction/creative non-fiction prose/poetry; graduate level thesis; etc.) that you are interested in publishing with UOG Press, check out the guidelines online at www.uog.edu/uog-press/submission-guidelines.

For more information, contact UOG Press managing editor Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero at victoria-lola@triton.uog.edu or (671) 735-2154. (UOG)

Hawaii to get \$12.8M in Compact impact funds

WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech has announced that \$12,762,262 will be Hawaii's share of 2018 Compact impact funding provided under U.S. Public Law 108-188.

The funding will be provided to the Department of Human Services to help defray costs associated with providing education, public health, and public safety-related services to migrants from the Freely Associated States of Micronesia, Marshalls, and Palau who have migrated to Hawaii.

"I met with Gov. [David] Ige last December and am pleased that we can provide some assistance to Hawaii on behalf of the federal government," said Domenech. "Dur-

ing the meeting, I was pleased to hear that other assistance provided to Hawaii by Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in standing up the 'We Are Oceania' One Stop Center has been helpful to the governor and his administration in minimizing the impacts on Hawaii from migration from the Freely Associated States as well as in serving Micronesian community needs."

Under the Compacts of Free Association first approved in Public Law 99-239 (1986) and Public Law 99-658 (1994), and later amended in Public Law 108-188 (2003), citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are legal nonimmigrants allowed, for indefinite periods of time,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula, Hawaii Gov. David Ige, and assistant secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech pose for a photo on Dec. 14, 2017.

to live, work, and study in the United States without a visa.

In 1996, under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, nonimmigrants living and working legally in the United States under the Compacts were deemed ineligible for federal public benefits.

Thus began what has been a rising concern for the governments of Guam and Hawaii, as U.S. ports of entry in the Pacific, which have directly borne the cost of public services related to migration under the Compacts, often referred to as "Compact impact."

In 2003, the U.S. Congress allocated \$30 million annually to Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa to assist in defraying costs due to

increased demands placed on health, educational, social, or public sector services, or infrastructure related to such services due to Compact impact.

Compact impact funds and the apportionment to each affected jurisdiction are calculated using a ratio allocation based on a 2013 U.S. Census Bureau enumeration that put the number of Compact migrants in Hawaii at 14,700 and the allocation for the state at \$12.8 million.

The U.S. Census Bureau will be conducting a new enumeration, to update the numbers used in the allocation of Compact impact funding, expected to be completed at the end of this year.

Under current law, Compact impact funding expires in 2023. (PR)

US moves ships, bombers toward Korea ahead of Olympics

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. is beefing up its presence around the Korean Peninsula ahead of next month's Winter Olympics by deploying stealth bombers, at least one extra aircraft carrier and a new amphibious assault ship to the region.

Coming after Washington agreed to postpone massive annual military maneuvers with South Korea until after the Games, North Korea says the U.S. is trying to put a chill on its renewed talks with Seoul.

"Such moves are an unpardonable military provocation chilling the atmosphere for improved inter-Korean relations," the North's ruling party said in a commentary published over the weekend.

Representatives of both Koreas held a second round of talks Monday near the Demilitarized Zone to try to pave the way for a North Korean delegation to join the Pyeongchang Games.

The U.S. has officially welcomed the talks and the moves represent routine training and scheduled upgrades, according to U.S. military officials.

Tensions remain high and the military deployments are significant.

Last week, the Pacific Air Forces announced three B-2 "Spirit" stealth bombers with approximately 200 personnel have been deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to the Pacific island

of Guam.

The statement said the deployment is intended to provide leaders with "deterrent options to maintain regional stability."

But the Guam deployment hits an especially sore nerve and plays on a key vulnerability for Pyongyang, which is probably the message Washington had in mind as it seeks to make sure nothing happens during the Olympics and also let Pyongyang know its decision to postpone the exercises is not a sign of weakness.

Last year, flights by B-1B bombers from Guam to the airspace around Korea were a major flashpoint, prompting a warning from North Korea that it had drawn up a plan to

target the waters around the island with a missile strike that it could carry out anytime Kim gave the order.

The B-2 is more threatening.

It's the most advanced bomber in the Air Force and, unlike the B-1B, can carry nuclear weapons. It's also the only known aircraft that can drop the Air Force's biggest bomb, the 14,000-kilogram (30,000-pound) GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator.

The "MOP," capable of penetrating deep into the ground to destroy reinforced tunnels and bunkers, was explicitly designed with North Korea in mind.

The B-2 deployment came

just days after the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier departed for the western Pacific in what the Navy called a regularly scheduled deployment. South Korean media reports say the carrier and its strike group will reach waters near the Korean Peninsula ahead of the start of the Games on Feb. 9.

The USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, whose home port is just south of Tokyo in Yokosuka, is also in the region, and North Korea has accused the U.S. of planning to send another carrier, the USS John Stennis from Bremerton, Washington.

The Marines announced on Sunday the arrival in southern Japan of the USS Wasp, an

upgraded amphibious assault ship that can carry troops and launch the corps' new F-35B stealth fighters. It can carry 30-plus aircraft, including the F-35s, which are designed for vertical takeoffs and landings.

The ships and bombers could figure largely in a U.S. response to any military emergencies during the Games. North Korea may view them as a greater and more imminent threat.

Aircraft carriers, virtually impervious to any attack the North could mount, are floating platforms for sustained air assaults, while the F-35 fighters could be a key part of any potential strike on Kim Jong Un himself.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 24, 2000

'Tobacco laws deprive youth jobs in retail stores'

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has expressed concern over the restrictive local tobacco laws, saying these have deprived the youth the opportunity to work at retail establishments as they are prohibited from handling and selling tobacco products. He urged the Legislature to review further Public Law 11-75 to amend provisions that will lessen the impact on employment for minors under 18 years old in stores where tobacco products are sold. "This age requirement has significantly decreased the job opportunities for our youth seeking part-time or summer employment," said the governor.

HANMI seeks reasonable fee on water chemical monitoring

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's assistance in coming up with a plan that will ensure payment of a reasonable fee in connection with the planned chemical monitoring of water systems in the CNMI. In a letter to the governor, HANMI President Ron D. Sablan said the high expense of the testing is very untimely as businesses are suffering due to the slowdown on the island's economy. He reminded the governor that these new arbitrary

and unexpected fees" proves the CNMI's unstable investment climate. If the hotels will pass the additional costs to its guests, such move will just hurt the CNMI's competitiveness as a tourist destination, he said.

January 24, 2005

Marpi landfill filling up fast

The nearly two-year old Marpi landfill is rapidly filling up, posing a concern that it may reach full capacity before its allotted time and prompting local authorities to ask for funding so it could be expanded. Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente convened the Solid Waste Task Force yesterday to discuss the expansion plan and possible options such as bringing in incineration technology to reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill. The landfill's life span is estimated at 16 years, but recycling of waste at the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station is hoped to prolong its use. Benavente said the Department of Public Works is tasked to prepare a plan for the expansion project, including a funding request to the Legislature.

New peace monument to be built at Banzai

A Japanese group will be constructing a new monument at the Banzai Cliff area, where members plan to hold a peace memorial ceremony every year. In line with the project, the Marianas Public Lands Authority has designated a small portion of land in the area to the Marianas Visitors Authority, which is working with the Saipan Hosshoji Memorial Group. "We support this project because it will help tourism to the Commonwealth. The historical ties between Japan and Saipan are one of the main reasons we are able to get Japanese tourists to visit our islands," said MPLA chair-

woman Ana Demapan-Castro.

January 24, 2006

Senate supports creation of police reserve force

The Senate wants civilian volunteers to augment the current police force. The lawmakers recently voted unanimously to pass Senate Bill 15-27, which would establish a civilian volunteer police reserve unit to assist the Department of Public Safety. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives. "[T]he present number of Department of Public Safety employees may be insufficient to carry out [its] duties and responsibilities in the event that a crisis, either natural or man-made, occurs within the Commonwealth," stated the bill, authored by Sen. Paterno S. Hocog. Members of the reserve unit that are retired police officers will receive an hourly wage that is the equivalent of the hourly wage received by a police officer that is of the same rank as that retired police officer that attained prior to retirement.

'MHS Career Fair a success'

The Marianas High School-Cooperative Education & Training Program's Career Fair held yesterday at the MHS Cafeteria was an overwhelming success. MHS teacher and program coordinator Tyce Mister described the event as "outstanding" and said he was very pleased with the turnout. At least 45 students from the largest high school in the CNMI trooped to the cafeteria and met with the representatives of participating companies and government agencies. "I am happy to report a 100-percent attendance [by the companies]. I know you all have very busy schedules and I commend you on your dedication in coming down to MHS," he said in an e-mail he sent out to participating private and government agencies.

Labor convenes CNMI Workforce Development board

Core programs and industry sectors formalized their committees toward aligning and improving workforce programs and economic development for the Commonwealth at the first general membership meeting of the newly organized CNMI Workforce Development board on Jan. 18, 2018.

"We convened this year with key industry sectors in hospitality, small business, health-care, gaming, telecommunications, and education," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. "Our initial discussions include the unified state plan for the Commonwealth and modifications to our workforce system and needs. The meeting was a success, and I thank everyone for their participation and commitment to ensuring we meet the mandates of [the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act]."

The CNMI Workforce Development board is a key component to development, integration, and empowerment through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Under the U.S. Department of Labor, this law is designed to assist job seekers and make employment more accessible through education, training and support services.

WIOA replaced the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and includes several reforms that require states to align workforce development so that core programs and skills meet employers' needs.

The reforms also ensure that employment and training is evidence-based and data-driven; fosters regional collaboration; contributes to economic growth and business expansion; provides access to high quality training; improves workforce services for all job seekers, including those with



Members of the newly reorganized CNMI Workforce Development board meet to discuss Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act plans. Seated, from left, Rep. Francisco Aguon; Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente; Velma Palacios, IT&E engineering and plant technical services manager; Polly DLG Masga, Marianas Medical Center general manager; and Annie G. Hayes, Herman's Modern Bakery assistant general manager. Standing, from left: Bertha C. Leon Guerrero, Imperial Pacific International vice president for human resources; Nicole Babauta Small Business Development Center director; Arlene Yamagata, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director; Dr. Carmen Fernandez, president of the Northern Marianas College; Esther Muña, chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Health Center; Josephine Mesta, CNMI Workforce Development board chair and director of human resources at Hyatt Regency Saipan; and Lorraine C. Maui, NMC-ABE state director.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

disabilities; prepares youth for successful employment; and increases the performance of the Job Corps program.

Through USDOL, the WIOA program emphasizes investment in skill development, including employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth, assistance for adult education, increased literacy programs, and enhanced vocational rehabilitation, said federal programs manager Frances A. Torres.

Benavente emphasized that representation and input of core industries are critical to the economy and is needed to address the Commonwealth's workforce needs.

"The board's role includes identifying barriers to workforce needs and better coor-

dinating to avoid duplication of activities in workforce development. The WIOA puts emphasis on a one-stop delivery system through outreach and market analysis. We've brought our key industries to the table and we will convene again later this month after our committees outline existing labor demands and needs. We intend to submit state plan modifications to move the CNMI towards workforce transformations outlined in WIOA. I look forward to working with the board to improve training and create a unified state plan that is truly reflective of our current and future labor needs," Benavente said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that innovation and integration will continue to play a role in

U.S. workforce development.

"The CNMI Workforce Development board through WIOA is one way we are gauging our existing resources to build our workforce, and it will continue to be a critical priority for us moving forward. Bridging the gap between job seekers and employers is ongoing and complementary access to labor is needed.

"What matters most to me is the need to focus our efforts toward building our U.S. workforce and addressing shortages now and in the long run. At the end of the day, workforce innovation and opportunities are sustained by industry collaboration and will go a long way in addressing the strengths and weaknesses of workforce development activities, capacity,

and policies.

"I thank the new members of our board for their collaboration and commitment to tackling these concerns," Torres said.

The following committees were established:

■ Policy committee, chaired by Benavente and vice chairs Sen. Sixto and Rep. Francisco Aguon;

■ Economic and workforce committee, chaired by Nicole Babauta, Small Business Development Center director, and vice chair Bertha Leon Guerrero, Imperial Pacific International vice president for human resources;

■ Education committee, chaired by Dr. Carmen Fernandez, president of the Northern Marianas College,

with vice chair Esther Muna, chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Health Center; and

■ State programs committee, chaired by Arlene Yamagata, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director, and vice chair Lorraine T. Maui, NMC-ABE state director.

The overall CNMI Workforce Development board chair is Josephine Mesta, director of human resources at Hyatt Regency Saipan. She is joined by vice chair Annie G. Hayes, Herman's Modern Bakery assistant general manager; secretary/treasurer Polly DLG Masga, Marianas Medical Center, and Velma Palacios, IT&E engineering and plant technical services manager. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. The guest speaker will be Regina Terlaje, Ayuda Network Inc. program coordinator, and her presentation will on respite service program and training/technical assistance for volunteers, caregivers and family members. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Scheduled power outage on Jan. 27

There will be a scheduled

power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to perform line clearing near the primary lines along Haiguas Ln. Chalan Piao. Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (3" partial), affecting Chalan Piao (Haiguas Ln., Niyok Dr., Ramona Ln., and Teodoro Dr.). No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected by this outage. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

Underwater detonation training in Guam harbor

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct

underwater detonation training in Outer Apra Harbor today, Jan. 24, from 8am to 4pm.

EODMU-5 will detonate one 5-lb explosive at the designated UNDET location on a sandy area of the sea floor. For the safety of the public and participants involved, the Coast Guard will establish a safety zone to restrict access in the vicinity.

EODMU-5 performs underwater detonation training to develop the skills needed to be ready to rapidly respond to operational missions and unexploded ordnance support on Guam and the CNMI.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life

is seen in the area.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

Kilili will address SHRM on Jan. 25

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will be speaking at the Jan. 25 meeting of the Human Resource Management NMI Chapter about the recently introduced Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, legislation to extend the CW visa program. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. The presentation is open to the public. Sablan will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation includes

the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. (PR)

Meeting of Kagman farmers

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform farmers and farmers of the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, at 9am at the Division of Agriculture's Kagman station.

Topics to be discussed will include the upcoming election of S&NISWCD administrators. The DLNR is looking for farmers to be administrators of the S&NISWCD. If you are interested or would like to get information on this matter call Diane Gabaldon at 256-3319. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM ASAN, Guam

The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan. 24-25, from noon to 8pm. The U.S. military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 26 and 28, from 10am to 11:59pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Korean unity at Olympics

Have the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games turned into the Pyongyang Games? Hardly.

But North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has seized the Olympic spotlight, with the agreement that athletes from both sides of the demilitarized zone will march under a unified flag during opening ceremonies at the Winter Olympics next month in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The International Olympic Committee signed off on the deal Saturday. North Korea will send 22 athletes, including a group of women's hockey players who will join South Korean players to field a combined women's team. North Koreans will also compete in figure skating, short-track speed skating, cross-country skiing and Alpine skiing.

North Korea, shunned by much of the world for its hell-bent push to build its nuclear weapons arsenal, a country that has repeatedly vowed to annihilate Seoul in a "sea of fire," now wants the world to think it embraces Olympic comity and fair play.

Forgive us if we don't drink that sugary drink.

Of course, this sudden expression of unity beats the usual brinkmanship and fiery bluster we get from the Kim regime. But North Korea is adept at the game of freeze and thaw. This isn't the first time that the North has clasped hands with the South at an Olympiad—it did so at the Summer Games in Sydney in 2000. And when South Korea hosted the Asian Games in 2014, North and South Korean athletes appeared together under a unity banner. What followed? Three underground nuclear detonations and test launches of more than 40 ballistic missiles, including one capable of hitting Washington.

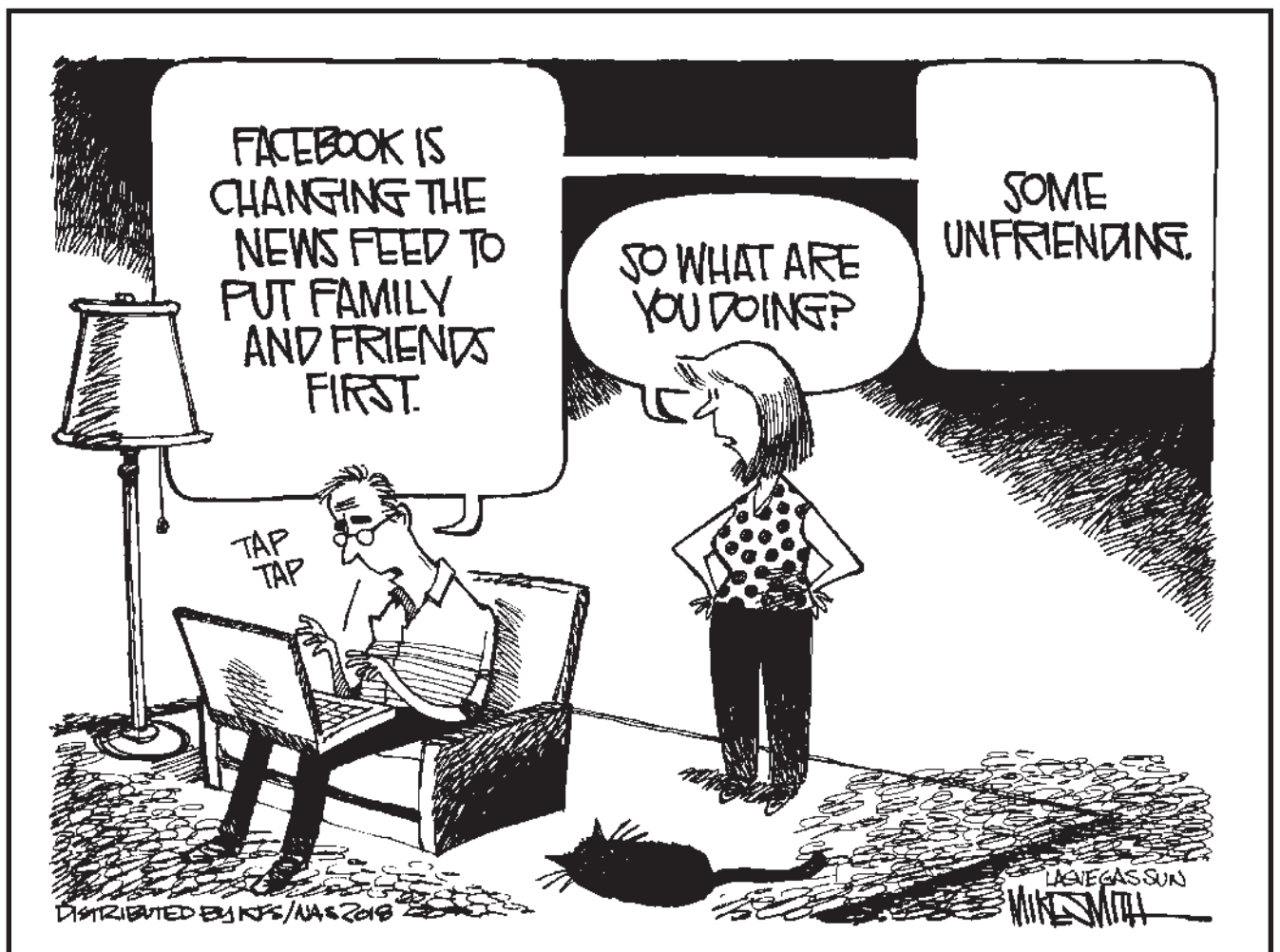
Kim's strategy? Maybe to play peacemaker at a time when the Trump administration is pushing a strategy of pressure on Pyongyang through sanctions and threats of answering North Korean belligerence with "fire and fury." It may be that the sanctions are working, and that Kim's trying to push the U.S. to ease off. Or, he simply may be trying to drive a wedge between South Korea and the U.S.

Pyongyang's goals have been consistent through generations of Kim family leadership. Self-preservation of the regime. The withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea. And, eventually, reunification with the South, under Pyongyang rule.

That's why both the U.S. and South Korea have to tread carefully with Kim's latest chess move. A few optimists in Washington may be heartened by this hint at rapprochement, but it's not time to consider letting up on sanctions. Similarly, South Korea should think twice about the boundaries of this Olympic gesture. Would Pyongyang show the same amity if the U.S. one day pulled out of South Korea?

There's something else Seoul should consider. These Olympics mark the first time South Korea has ever hosted the Winter Games. It's a landmark moment for Seoul, a source of immense national pride. South Korean athletes who have endured years of early morning workouts and aching bodies will march into Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium not under their own flag, but under a unity banner—a blue Korean Peninsula on a white background. The Olympics are about moments. Will that moment feel right to those athletes and their countrymen? Or will they feel sold out?

(c)2018 Chicago Tribune



The real shutdown issue

Despite media hysteria during the recently deceased government shutdown, the reality is the United States has had such political paralysis on average every 30 months for nearly a half-century, lasting on average 7 days.

Shutdowns, even these partial ones few people notice outside the D.C. company town, raise many questions: What exactly gets shut down? When isn't the government shut down over a weekend? Why are these stalemates never solved for good? Will voters even remember this hiatus come November?

But here's the real question: How did our federal governing officials on both sides slip so easily from doing what they were actually hired to do, namely govern? And instead spend so much time strategizing, maneuvering and posturing to avoid getting blamed for what they didn't do when they should have?

This is their job, for Chuck's sake, their full-time job! Other workers can't throw up their hands, "Oh, this is too hard."

These elected bumpkins are each getting paid a princely price of \$174,000 (plus free gym, swell insurance, cheap food, etc.). That's for about 133 workdays a year. That makes for a paycheck three-plus-times larger than the average American's annual pay for 240 workdays. Three times the money for about half the workdays. How does that work?

Yet, somehow, these legislators' procrastinations, pet programs, politics, personal egos and "principles" don't permit them to work out a budget compromise? Time after time. Both sides must prance and preen for their base.

Part of the problem is the absence (thanks to voters and resignations) of political moderates to design and broker compromises. This leaves the stage to performance art by the most extreme wings of each party to profess positions they claim prohibit dealing.

Some unreliable media, notably talk-radio and rabble-rousing cable shows, are too busy fanning the flames of feuding factions and filling in the time between ads during the next hour's shows with likely the laziest questions in the history of interviewing: "What do you make of ____?"

No one in the nation's capital pauses as common-sense Americans watching at home do, yelling at the TV screen, "When will someone hold these clowns accountable?"

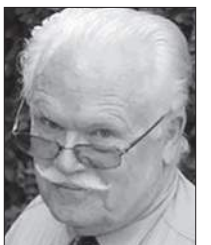
Feeling helpless, frustrated and ignored, millions of these folks decided in 2016 to vote for a political outsider who vowed to disrupt Washington's failed business-as-usual. He wasn't/isn't politically-qualified for the job. But neither, it seems, are those who hold the Capitol jobs.

There's a myth among conservatives that a hostile media tells Americans what to think. Ever try telling three family members what to think, let alone 323 million Americans? Instead, a hostile media excels at telling Americans what to think about.

By **ANDREW MALCOLM**

Special to McClatchy

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him @AHMalcolm.



Think about the implications of a rogue North Korea with the actual ability to annihilate a half dozen U.S. cities in 30 minutes? Think about the future of the Mideast with an angry, ambitious, aggressive Iran fueling regional fights and its own ICBMs? Think about the social implications of almost one-half of American children being raised by a single parent, mainly due to absent fathers.

No, no time for that.

We get instead repetitive recitations of a dubiously-sourced book by a disreputable author with scandalous details many want to believe about a president many cannot abide. We get week-long coverage of one word the frustrated president probably said about desperate countries with special immigration deals allowing them to send refugees here to escape those desperate places.

Why? Because this feeds the latest negative narrative that, besides being an upset usurper installed by nefarious Russians, President Trump is a racist. Politically, it may work.

But what about members of Congress diddling instead of funding the government and military? No. We get repeated rehashes of reaction to what the president probably said.

Not because it is of any lasting importance. The opposite, in fact. When a previous vice president, good old Joe Biden, called Obamacare a "big f_ _ing deal" on national TV, it was funny. They soon sold BFD T-shirts.

"What's your reaction to ____?" does make for easier journalism and perhaps more clicks online. A president's stupid morning tweets are so tempting to cover, too, because they feed the negative narrative, even if—think about it—the brief messages allow him to distract and control much of each day's news agenda for an allegedly independent but quite predictable press.

With the hallowed freedom of the press also comes an often-neglected responsibility of the press. That means, at least occasionally, disdaining what's easiest to do or what fits personal prefabricated politics in favor of genuinely seeking what really matters, what's important to cover.

Like—oh, say—holding both party's members of Congress accountable for dodging their fiscal duties so grossly, so routinely and so consequence-free?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Liñguahen natibu

Gi maseha hafa na pinetsige, presisu na ta sustene sattun usun liñguahita. Estague` sahyan natibu gi manafitmen kuttura yan tradision. Este solu manera `nai siña ta asegura na sumaga fitme gi famaguon-ta kinempreden sustansian niha kumu famaguon natibu. Muñga hit sumede na u fan naufragu famaguon-ta.

Repara ginen manu mage ennau na patgon. Dispues de madeskatga machahlau ni mañainaña yan motmut na inadaha. Ma-esgaihon desde kumunanaf estake ha usune primet pasuña. Dispues de makuentuse gi hila` nanaña ha tutuhun mama` palabra giya guiya mismu. `Nai umeskuela makontinua leksion propiu na konbetsasion kontodu mañge` gi mismu liñguahiña.

Ginen halum guma` familia este na patgon `nai makreansa yan maguagat hafa yan haye-gue`. Guiya mismu muna` oppan haf` mafanagueña ni mañainaña. Dispues sige mona estake echu tautau ya pumattisipau gi kinalamten todú. Mas fitme giya guiya sustansian tinatena `an kabales siña hatuge` mismu liñguahiña. Este na rekomendasion ginen professot isla siha ginen Pasifiku.

I liñguahita i fitme na sahyan manala`la` kutturán yan tradision natibu. Pasensiaye famaguon miyu ya u fan felis gi ineyag likidu na kutturata.

Inana`e: Hu akanteha un` kustumbren isla ni oppan mapraktika gi todú komunidan iya Pasifiku: Inana`e. Huli`e este antes gi hagas soñgsoñg `nai man-ana`e bisinu suetten kineni` peska yan kinisechan gualu`. Sensian gineftau ni mas muna` fitme amesta, inapinitive yan ina`ayuda gi otrú patte siha gi kinalamten natibu.

Este na kustumbre sumen bonitu dispues de matutuhun i famaguon ma-establesen maisa familian niha mismu. Todú i tiempu guaha sensian ina`akude gi che`lu ni ti lumalañgag ya man-geftau ayudu gi este na tirun chinatsaga. Esta hana` mas himiddi-yu` este `nai huli`e gi halum mismu mañeluhu.

Relihion: I Katolisismo pumetmanente kumu kutturán relihion guine gi natibu ni inentrodusen Españot. Tai relihion i Chamorro guihe na tiemp fuera ke `nos kuantu eksisiu gi kustumbren antes. Ti mattu gi eskaleran hineñgen relihion.

I nuebu na relihion tumutuhun konseptun justisia gi natibu. Unu gi mas misignifikasion `nai ha sede Españot i Manachañg (mas tagpapa` na rasan Chamorro) gumai tanu`. I kustumbre antes malimite dueñun tanu` gi Matua. Ni Acha`ot ti masede dumueñun tanu`. Che`chu justisia i masusede `nai matrata todú

parehu gi bandan tanu`.

Guaha ha` siha chinatsaga gi finana`guen relihion Katoliku gi natibu. Adumididi` mali`e sustansian finana`guen hineñge as Yuus yan amtau na areglun justisia. Fumitme dispues gi kutturán natibu sensian konseptun justisia. Gi karera mona mas guaha mauleg na areglu gi halum komunidan natibu.

I Japones hafanu`e natibu benefisiun kometsiu desde produktun gualu` yan tasi. Mauleg na ekonomia ma-establese guine antes de geran dos. Ha prueba i Japones na siña homlu` na kinalamten kometsiu guine `nai fitme kinalamten todú. Lastima sa` dispues sen ti mabira este na modun lina`la` `nai mapau todú asun gera guine.

Ta embrasa i moseria (lugat cho`chu`) `nai adumididi` ta diñgu hagas tradision fangualu`an. Kontodu peskan tasi maliñgu kulan mohon minachum atdau gi sanlagu `nai homhum. Puede i ta petsisige u guaha kampu gi inestablesen homlu` na ekonomia kumu katsun setbisiu siha guine.

Espirituat: Hu taitai estorian un` prohimu ni dumimu man-na`e agradesimientu gi Saina pot ti hoñgiyun na bendision. Era, dies siha na mañelu ya kada unu ma-adapta ni otrú familia. Ha rikonose silensiu finapos mañeluña. Kada unu felis hinanaña. Hana`e sinsiyu na agradesimientu i Saina pot bendision felis gi mañeluña siha.

Mafattu mina`ase`hu gi prohimu pot i tiempu desde ke ha petsige kumuestiona haye yan man-malag manu mañeluña. Ileg-hu na guaha buente `nai haguife inetnun familia mismu yan namagof na dinaña`. Hana` chatsaga-yu` lau buenu para guiya pot ha komprende na guaha mas metgot ke disposision tautau.

Fuera de fitme yan sattun na ineyag espirituat sessu mamokat-yu` yan man-amku` para i Guma` Yuus antes. I suabe yan suanu na finu` niha umesgaihon sensiag-hu guatu gi tanu` hinimiddi. Ayu `nai umeyag-yu` haf` che`chu` echu tautau. Ma`ug na prebillehiu ni sige huna` fitme gi karerahu.

Adorasion: Buente pot respetu, guaha `nai huli`e tautau-ta gi gima` Yuus ma-adora buttun mañantos siha piot i inayeg niha kumu patron. Taya` linache gi bandan respetu mañaluda mañantos. Lau chatmiyu fan malelefa na Si Yuus solu ma-adodora! `An guaha dinidan miyu adiñgane maseha haye na pale` pot akonsehu.

Todú klasen fuetsan mañantos guaha ni gai tinatte milagro mina` afamau gi tautauña dispues. Lamegai pot manyo-amte gi

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



didog yan pipinu` na chetnot ni fumatoigue lugat tautauña.

Desde satbasion ti amtiyun na chenot esta papa` gi sumen chatsaga na katsadan lina`la` guaha patron ni gai fafaye sumatba chinatsaga ni ginen hilu`.

Peskadot: `Nai malofan i Saina gi kantun tasi ha soda` grupun peskadot. Sige mafaisen kuestion dispues ileg niha na malagu` siha na umatatiye. Kondision i Saina i debi umadiñgu todú guinahan niha. Man-sinañgane ni Saina “Nihe ya baina` fan peskadot tautau hamyu”.

Bes enkuando, manfinana`gue ni Saina haf` tinagu` Yuus Tata. Gi karera mona guaha manmapunu` pot finana`guen i Lahen Yuus. Che`chu` manatma na katgu kumu sindalun Yuus ni mumattit siha pot hineñgen niha. Ni unu sumeha chumalapun dottrinan i Saina.

Dañkulu na sakrifisiu i madiñgu i uttimu guinahan niha pot para umatatiye i Saina. I terenu gi sanmena mampos barañka na katsada. Lau ni unu umabandona si Jesukristo gi finanaguen` tinagu` Yuus Tata.

Bisita: Bes enkuando, hu hala dandan-hu ukulele `sino gitala ya sige hu usune hagas sunidun tano`ta. Guaha `nai mattu mahalañg-hu ni hagas grupu ni sessu gi bisinu mañganta mientras mangigimen piot gi tiempun Christmas.

Hu kanta dispues I Hatdin Giya Paraisu pat Ti Gi Un` Palasyon I Riku ni tinige` defuntu tiuhun mame as Tun Josen Elisa. Kada ratu hu estudia i pañgpañg sofía yan sustansian palabran i dos kanta. Magahet na bonitu palabran i dos sunidu.

Guaha ha` siha hineñgog-hu mediu modetnu na kantan Chamorro lau chagu` yan sustansian tinige` Tun Jose. Supremimu pumalabra i amku`.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Poor leadership

Vice speaker Janet U. Maratita said her introduction of House Bill 20-149 to abolish the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and recreate a Department of Public Health under the governor's office is not against the CHCC chief executive officer and has nothing to do with politics, but this is pure politics at its core and do you really think that our community and the entire community agree with you? Decisions like this should be based on facts. Stating it just doesn't make it true.

Maratita said she knows the timing is bad, but she has been planning to introduce the bill since January 2016. When you said that the timing is bad, you're saying that this is the right time to do it, because the governor is not happy with the CHCC CEO?

You were just elected in 2016. Doesn't make sense when the governor signed the governing bill in January 2017. So 2018 comes and we have another bill that is threatening the CNMI healthcare. CHCC staff and management and the community can't be wondering every year what will the governor or the Legislature would do. That is poor leadership on yours and the governor's part.

CHCC staff and management need a stable governance. CMS requires that the hospital follow the laws of the CNMI. If the government keeps changing the laws because they can't decide what's best for the CNMI today, then CMS will have difficulty certifying an agency that changes when the political atmosphere changes. CMS regulations are clear and stable. Health for the CNMI should be too.

There are so many improvements since moving CHCC out of DPH. It is irresponsible to not recognize those improvements that

occurred even with little support from the central government.

Maratita said her initial plan is to introduce a bill that will separate the Division of Public Health from CHCC. “I asked former public health officials and administrators and got their thoughts on this idea. They all advised me not to separate the two. Instead, they suggested reverting both to the central government as an executive department.”

Why former administrators and former officials? There are many issues of the hospital prior to it being part of the autonomous agency. For one, we know from previous statements of the CEO in hearings and in articles that CMS responded to a complaint when it was with DPH. CMS became concerned with how the hospital was governed under the Executive Branch. The complaint sent CMS to do a thorough survey of the hospital when it was under DPH. Being under CHCC, CMS saw changes and kept granting extension because they saw that there is a sign of improvement. CMS will not be granting extensions if there is absolutely no progress.

Once her bill becomes law, she said, the governor will appoint a Public Health secretary, director and administrator to run the hospital—no more board members. What makes you think that this is better without the board members? Our lives are on the line here!

Public Law 16-51, which abolished the Department of Public Health and created CHCC, has already been replaced by P.L. 19-78. Funding the hospital should be a responsibility of the CNMI government, especially since there is no universal insurance and there are people who are still without insurance or have little

insurance to cover the costs of their healthcare. It doesn't require legislation like this to ensure the governor is putting money to health. It requires lawmakers to ensure there is adequate appropriation to those in need.

We agree P.L. 16-51 has flaws. First, it created a corporation without proper funding. The so called “seed money” given to CHCC was \$5 million for a \$40 million operations. The government should be blamed for that. If the government can't comprehend that it takes money to pay for quality healthcare, how is putting it back in their hands make it better for the public and the community?

Maratita said this is “about what is right and what is best for the public and the community” but since when did you become the mother of the land that you claim you know what is best for the public and the community?






What would be best for the public and the community is for the central government to provide enough money for what is needed to run the hospital and to ensure that our hospital provides better healthcare for our people. Leave politics out of it!

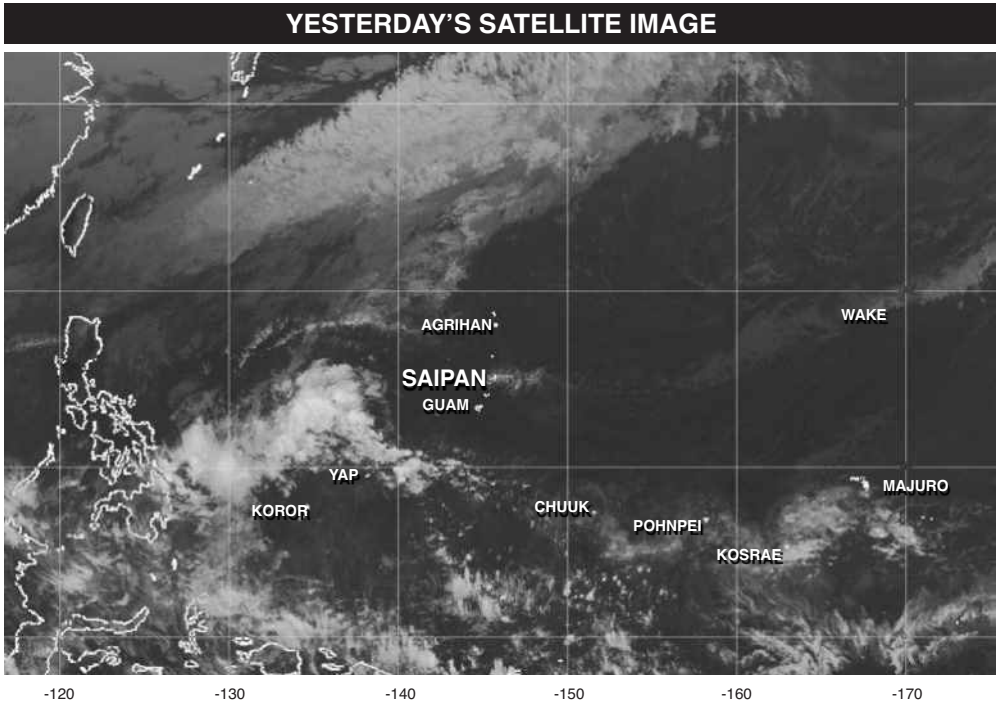
Maratita said the then-Department of Public Health received a budget of \$37 million in fiscal year 2011 but it received a local subsidy of \$4.7 million in fiscal year 2012 and has since then been dependent on federal funds. But CHCC was generating revenue too. Otherwise, it would not have survived the lack of support from the central government.

Jack Muña

Koblerville, Saipan

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. | Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲89° ▼78° | ▲89° ▼78° | ▲89° ▼77° | ▲88° ▼77° | ▲88° ▼77° |



PICTURE TIME: 2:16 PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

No major changes from the previous forecast. A dry season pattern remains across the Marianas this morning. Latest model guidance indicates this pattern will continue through tonight with a weak shear line remnant approaching the region Wednesday. Deep layer moisture remains limited with this system, so only expect a slight increase in showers and mostly cloudy skies. The drier pattern returns again Thursday and continues into the beginning of the weekend. For Saturday, another shear line will approach the islands. Winds are expected to increase with this shear line along with an increase in clouds and a few more showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 77° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 78° |
| Chuuk | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 83° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Ptly Cloudy | 81° / 66° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 27° / 10° |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 68° / 63° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 72° |
| London | Rain | 55° / 43° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 74° / 48° |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 90° / 75° |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 72° / 57° |
| Miami | Showers | 76° / 64° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 43° / 26° |
| Osaka | Cloudy | 37° / 30° |
| Paris | Showers | 54° / 46° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 32° / 14° |
| Rome | Sunny | 61° / 43° |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 32° |
| San Francisco | Rain | 53° / 45° |
| Seoul | Sunny | 19° / 0° |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | 37° / 21° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 47° / 28° |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|
| 6:08 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.44 |
| 12:44 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.90 |
| 7:36 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.59 |
| - | - | - |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Thursday | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Friday | 6:46 AM | 6:12 PM |
| Saturday | 6:46 AM | 6:12 PM |
| Sunday | 6:46 AM | 6:13 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | 11:32 AM | - | - |
| Thursday | - | 12:08 AM | 12:16 PM |
| Friday | - | 1:03 AM | 1:03 PM |
| Saturday | - | 2:01 AM | 1:54 PM |
| Sunday | - | 3:01 AM | 2:49 PM |

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017 | | | |
|---|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | ARRIVALS | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | |
| UA6394 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA6392 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota |
| UA6390 | 2:20pm | 3:10pm | 2, 3, 6 |
| UA6398 | 6:05pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| UA6396 | 9:50pm | 10:40pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) | | GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) | |
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 2:05pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) | | ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN | |
| UA6391 | 2:35pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | |
| DL297 | 4:20pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| DL298 | 10:30am | 3:05pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | |
| 7C3451 | 3:10am | 6:10am | 1, 7 |
| 7C3451 | 4:00am | 7:05am | 4, 5 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | |
| TW308 | 2:00am | 6:05am | Daily |
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| LJ652 | 3:40am | 7:30am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45am | 8:30am | Daily |
| 7C3401 | 4:00pm | 7:45pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | |
| 3U8648 | 5:40am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG) | | HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN | |
| JD396 | 7:30am | 12:00pm | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 10:00pm | 4 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | |
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | |
| OZ626/701 | 2:10am | 10:55am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 10:55am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA6394/191 | 4:15am | 9:00am | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 8:10am | 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6398/193 | 6:05pm | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) | | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN | |
| HX077 | 1:50am | 5:15am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| U043 | 5:45am | 8:40am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| UA6398/159 | 6:05pm | 11:00pm | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:15pm | 12:15am+1 | 3, 7 |
| U042 | 6:50pm | 1:45am+1 | 7 |
| U042 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| UA116/6395 | 11:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |
| TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

Business

Netflix's success turns net neutrality into an afterthought

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix once fought fiercely for net neutrality, fearing that its online video service would suffer if internet providers were free to discriminate against it.

But now that it boasts one of television's largest audiences, Netflix isn't spending much time worrying about the demise of the government rules that once protected it.

With millions of subscribers still flocking to its service, Netflix figures internet providers are unlikely to do anything that might alienate large numbers of their own customers who also turn to Netflix for trendy shows such as "Stranger Things," "The Crown" and "Black Mirror."

"Netflix's fortress is so strong now that net neutrality has become background noise for them," says GBH Insights analyst Daniel Ives.



AP
In this Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, file photo, a person displays Netflix on a tablet in North Andover, Mass.

the season ending in last May, with an average viewership of nearly 10 million people.

NETFLIX NEUTRALITY

When it was smaller, Netflix worried that internet providers might throw obstacles in its way to protect the cable businesses many of them owned. Those pay-TV bundles have been losing subscribers for years, thanks in part to consumers opting for Netflix and other streaming services.

In early 2014, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings wrote an essay advocating strong net-neutrality rules to keep cable and phone companies from imposing tolls on services like Netflix. That was shortly after Netflix reluctantly agreed to pay Comcast, one of the biggest internet providers in the country, for a more reliable connection that would ensure its videos weren't disrupted in mid-stream.

At the time, though, Netflix had half as many subscribers worldwide as it does now, including 20 million fewer in the U.S. And it had only recently launched an expansion into original programming that turned it into an entertainment powerhouse.

BIG AND GETTING BIGGER

The Trump-era Federal Communications Commission repealed net-neutrality rules in mid-December. Those regulations barred internet providers like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon from slowing or blocking customer access to apps and sites, or from setting up paid "fast lanes" for favored companies. The rules have been a

big deal for smaller startups, as Netflix once was.

But now Netflix has more than 117 million subscribers worldwide, including nearly 55 million in the U.S., according to the company's fourth-quarter earnings report, released Monday. The service picked up 8.3 million of those worldwide subscribers—a

quarterly record—in the October-December period last year. That included a gain of 2 million in the U.S.

The performance blew past the projections of Netflix's own management and stock market analysts. It was especially striking given a 10 percent price increase on the company's most popular sub-

scription plan in the U.S.

Investors apparently aren't fretting about the end of net neutrality, either. The company's stock soared 9 percent to \$248.24 in Monday's extended trading. That positions Netflix's market value to surpass \$100 billion for the first time in Tuesday's regular trading session.

Emboldened by its success, Netflix now plans to spend up to \$8 billion on its programming line-up this year, up

from \$6 billion last year.

"Our goal is to entertain people," Netflix wrote in its earnings commentary. "We are thrilled to be able to do that at great scale."

Last year, Netflix's average viewership rose 9 percent, although the company refuses to disclose how many subscribers are watching at any given time. CBS was the most watched traditional TV network in the U.S. during

Uber driver in US illegally charged with 4 California rapes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Mexican man living in the U.S. illegally used his job as an Uber driver to target intoxicated young women and was charged Monday with raping, assaulting and robbing four victims, California prosecutors said.

Alfonso Alarcon-Nunez drove women to their homes, assaulted them, and stole property including cellphones, computers and jewelry, officials said. He collected his fare payments through the smartphone app Venmo to disguise his identity and his Uber records.

DNA evidence helped lead detectives to Alarcon-Nunez, who was arrested at his Santa Maria home last week, San Luis Obispo County District Attorney Dan Dow said at a news conference.

The alleged crimes occurred over four weeks starting in mid-December in San Luis Obispo, a city of about 45,000 that is home to California Polytechnic State University. Alarcon-Nunez's victims are between 19 and 22 and three were drunk at the time of the crimes, Dow said.

Alarcon-Nunez, 39, faces 10 criminal charges, including rape of an intoxicated victim and first-degree burglary. He pleaded not guilty to all charges at his arraignment and remained held in the San Luis Obispo County Jail with bail set at \$1.47 million. His next court date was set for Jan. 29.

Detectives are looking for potential witnesses and trying to determine if there are additional victims in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties northwest of Los Angeles, where the Alarcon-Nunez had been driving for Uber since September, Dow said.

Alarcon-Nunez has also gone by the name "Bruno Diaz" and his Venmo username was "Brush Bat," prosecutors said.

Officials said Alarcon-Nunez was not always driving for Uber when he picked up women. Sometimes, drivers in cars parked outside bars or restaurants "jump in front of the actual Uber driver and they will take someone unsuspecting to their home. And that's a way of putting someone at risk,

and in this case that's exactly what's alleged to have happened," Dow said.

He said the alleged crimes show that the company should improve its driver screening process, Dow said. Dow urged Uber users to make sure they are getting in the car of the correct driver by verifying the license plate and other information provided to clients.

Uber spokesman Michael Amodeo did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Alarcon-Nunez returned to the U.S. illegally after a voluntary deportation from New Mexico in 2005, officials said. Dow did not have details about why he was deported or whether he has a criminal record in the U.S.

California issues driver's licenses to immigrants in the country illegally and Alarcon-Nunez had a valid license since 2015.

Alarcon-Nunez's immigration status will not have a bearing on the prosecution, Dow said. He could face life in prison if convicted on all charges.

Trump applies tariffs to solar panels, washing machines

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Monday approved tariffs on imported solar-energy components and large washing machines in a bid to help U.S. manufacturers.

The Republican's decision followed recommendations for tariffs by the U.S. International Trade Commission.

"The president's action makes clear again that the Trump administration will always defend American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses in this regard," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement announcing the decision.

Most imported solar modules will face an immediate tariff of 30 percent, with the rate declining before phasing out after four years. For large residential washing machines, tariffs will start at up to 50 percent and phase out after three years.

China accused Trump of jeopardizing the multilateral trading system by taking action on complaints under U.S. law instead of through the World Trade Organization.

"The U.S. side once again abused its trade remedy measures," said a Commerce Ministry statement. "China expresses its strong dissatisfaction with this."

Mexico said Trump's decision not to exclude it from the measures was "regrettable."

"Mexico will use all available legal resources in response to the U.S. decision to apply protections on Mexican washing machines and solar panels," its Economy Department said in a statement.

The U.S. solar industry was split over the trade barriers.

The tariffs were sought last year by Suniva Inc., which filed for bankruptcy protection in April, and the U.S. subsidiary of Germany's SolarWorld.

They said that a nearly 50 percent increase in imported solar panels over five years led to a ruinous price collapse.

Nearly 30 U.S. solar-manufacturing facilities had closed in the past five years, they said, as China plotted to flood the global market with cheap products to weaken U.S. man-

ufacturing.

Suniva spokesman Mark Paustenbach called tariffs "a step forward for this high-tech solar-manufacturing industry we pioneered right here in America."

However, solar installers and manufacturers of other equipment used to run solar-power systems opposed tariffs, which they said will raise their prices and hurt demand for the renewable energy.

The Solar Energy Industries Association, which represents installation companies, said billions of dollars of solar investment will be delayed or canceled, leading to the loss of 23,000 jobs this year.

Mark Bortman, founder of Exact Solar in Philadelphia, said the prospect of tariffs, since the trade commission recommended them in October, had already caused him to delay hiring and expansion plans.

"Solar is really just starting to take off because it is truly a win-win-win situation" for consumers, workers and the environment, he said. "Tariffs would really be shooting ourselves in the foot."

Nation

Back to work: Govt shutdown ends after Dems relent

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump signed a bill reopening the government late Monday, ending a 69-hour display of partisan dysfunction after Democrats reluctantly voted to temporarily pay for resumed operations. They relented in return for Republican assurances that the Senate will soon take up the plight of young immigrant “dreamers” and other contentious issues.

The vote set the stage for hundreds of thousands of federal workers to return on Tuesday, cutting short what could have become a messy and costly impasse. The House approved the measure shortly thereafter, and President Donald Trump later signed it behind closed doors at the White House.

But by relenting, the Democrats prompted a backlash from immigration activists and liberal base supporters who wanted them to fight longer and harder for legislation to protect from deportation the 700,000 or so younger immigrants who were brought to the country as children and now are here illegally.

Democrats climbed on-board after two days of negotiations that ended with new assurances from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that the Senate would consider immigration proposals in the coming weeks. But there were deep divides in the Democratic caucus over strategy, as red-state lawmakers fighting for their survival broke with progressives looking to satisfy liberals’ and immigrants’ demands.

Under the agreement, Democrats provided enough votes



AP
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., answers to reporters as he walks to his office after speaking on the Senate floor at Capitol, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, in Washington.

also doesn’t address support for an immigration plan in the House, where opposition to extending the protections for the dreamers is far stronger.

The short-term spending measure means both sides may wind up in a shutdown stalemate again in three weeks.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer lent his backing to the agreement during a speech on the chamber’s floor. “Now there is a real pathway to get a bill on the floor and through the Senate,” he said of legislation to halt any deportation efforts aimed at the younger immigrants.

The White House downplayed McConnell’s commitment, and said Democrats caved under pressure. “They blinked,” principal deputy press secretary Raj Shah told CNN. In a statement, Trump said he’s open to immigration deal only if it is “good for our country.”

to pass the stopgap spending measure keeping the government open until Feb. 8. In return, McConnell agreed to resume negotiations over the future of the dreamers, border security, military spending and other budget debates. If those talks don’t yield a deal in the next three weeks, the Republican promised to allow the Senate to debate an immigration proposal—even if it’s one crafted by a bipartisan group and does not have the back-

ing of the leadership and the White House, lawmakers said. McConnell had previously said he would bring a deal to a vote only if President Donald Trump supported it.

Sixty votes were needed to end the Democrats’ filibuster, and the party’s senators provided 33 of the 81 the measure got. Eighteen senators, including members of both parties, were opposed. Hours later the Senate passed the final bill by the same 81-18 vote, sending it to the

House, which quickly voted its approval and sent the measure on to President Donald Trump.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders predicted that operations would return to normal by Tuesday morning.

The plan is far from what many activists and Democrats hoped when they decided to use the budget deadline as leverage. It doesn’t tie the immigration vote to another piece of legislation, a tactic often used to build momentum. It

Volunteer arrested after border agents seen dumping water

PHOENIX (AP)—A volunteer for an organization that tries to prevent immigrants from dying in the Arizona desert was arrested several hours after the group released videos showing Border Patrol agents kicking over water bottles left for those crossing into the U.S. illegally.

Scott Daniel Warren, 35, with the group No More Deaths, faces a federal charge of harboring two people in the country illegally. His arrest last week came after Border Patrol agents conducted surveillance on a building where two immigrants were given food, water, beds and clean clothes, according to federal court records.

Group volunteer Caitlin Deighan stopped short of calling the arrest retaliation but said it looks suspicious to have charged Warren so close to the release of the videos.

“We see it as an escalation and criminalization of aid workers,” Deighan said Monday.

The Border Patrol didn’t immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

William Walker, an at-

torney for Warren, said his client’s actions were not criminal.

“This is a humanitarian aid worker trying to save lives,” Walker said.

No More Deaths last week gave news organizations videos taken between 2010 and 2017, mostly by cameras at its desert camp. In one clip, a Border Patrol agent kicked over five water jugs meant to supply immigrants. In another, an agent pours gallons of water on the ground.

In 2005, two group volunteers were arrested after they drove three immigrants from a desert location to a Tucson church to get medical attention from a doctor and nurse. The indictment was eventually dismissed by a federal judge.

No More Deaths is a coalition of religious organizations, human rights advocates and individuals who provide food, water and medical assistance to immigrants crossing the Arizona desert from Mexico.

Immigrants who sneak into the United States through that terrain face many dangers, including walking for several days in the scorching heat.



ACROSS THE NATION

Officials: 5 missing, fire out after Oklahoma rig explosion

QUINTON, Okla. (AP)—Five people are missing after a fiery explosion ripped through an eastern Oklahoma drilling rig on Monday, sending plumes of black smoke into the air and leaving a derrick crumpled on the ground, emergency officials said. More than 20 employees were at the natural gas well site when the blast was reported around 8:45 a.m., Pittsburg County Sheriff Chris Morris said. Aerial footage showed several fires were still burning by midday on the rig and other equipment; the derrick, a towering metal structure above the well, collapsed onto the ground. Emergency crews were pulled away after other

explosions at the site, where several tanks are also located, Pittsburg County Emergency Management Director Kevin Enloe said during an afternoon news conference.

Student: Boy arrested in school shooting has violent past

DALLAS (AP)—A 16-year-old boy accused of shooting a classmate at a Texas high school on Monday had a history of aggressive actions at school, a fellow student said. The injured student, a 15-year-old girl, was airlifted to a hospital in Dallas following the shooting inside the cafeteria at Italy High School, which is in the small town of Italy about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Dallas. The boy fled after being confronted by a school district official

but was later arrested. Cassie Shook, a 17-year-old junior at the school, told The Associated Press that she was driving up to the building when she saw “the doors fly open and everyone screaming and running out of the building.” She said she was angry when she learned who the suspect was because she’d complained about the boy at least twice to school officials, including to a vice principal. “This could have been avoidable,” she said. “There were so many signs.”

Family of man killed after ‘swatting’ call sues Wichita

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—The family of a Kansas man fatally shot by police at the door of his home after a hoax emergency call has

sued the city of Wichita and the unidentified officers involved. The federal lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court of Kansas seeks unspecified damages related to the Dec. 28 death of Andrew Finch in Wichita. The unarmed 28-year-old man was shot by police responding to a California man’s call with a fake story about a shooting and kidnapping at Finch’s Wichita home. The shooting drew national attention to a practice called “swatting,” in which a person makes up a false report to get emergency responders to descend on an address. The hoax call reportedly was made after a dispute over a small wager online in a “Call of Duty” online video game tournament, according to Dexerto, a news service focused on gaming.

Asia

PH volcano spews lava fountains, 40K people flee

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' most active volcano continued to spew fountains of red-hot lava and massive ash plumes Tuesday in a dazzling but increasingly dangerous eruption that has sent 40,000 villagers to shelter in evacuation centers.

Lava fountains gushed up 700 meters (2,300 feet) above Mount Mayon's crater and ash plumes rose up to 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) at night and before daybreak, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. An explosive eruption at noon Monday was the most powerful since the volcano started acting up more than a week ago.

Authorities warned a violent eruption may occur in hours or days, characterized by more rumblings and pyroclastic flows—superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds, vaporizing everything in their path.

After Monday's huge explosion, officials raised Mayon's alert level to four on a scale of five, and the danger zone was expanded to 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the crater, requiring thousands more residents to be evacuated, including at least 12,000 who left their homes and then returned during gentler eruptions.

Authorities struggled to prevent villagers from sneak-



Residents watch as Mayon volcano spews ash anew during its eruption for the second straight day Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018 as seen from Legazpi city, Albay province, around 340 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines.

ing back to check on their homes and farms and to watch a cockfight in an arena in Albay's Santo Domingo town despite the risks and police patrols and checkpoints, said Cedric Daep, a provincial disaster-response official.

In a sign of desperation, Daep told a news conference that he has recommended electricity and water supply be cut in communities within

the no-go zones to discourage residents from returning.

"If pyroclastic flows hit people, there is no chance for life," Daep said. "Let us not violate the natural law, avoid the prohibited zone, because if you violate, the punishment is death penalty."

The daytime eruptions have plunged nearby villages in darkness and sent lava, rocks and debris cascading down

Mayon's slopes toward the no-entry danger zone. There have been no reports of deaths and injuries. Airplanes have been ordered to stay away from the crater and ash-laden winds and several domestic flights have been canceled.

Volcanic ash fell Monday in more than a dozen towns in coconut-growing Albay and nearby Camarines Sur province, with visibility be-

ing heavily obscured in a few towns because of the thick gray ash fall, Jukes Nunez, another Albay provincial disaster response officer, said by telephone.

"It was like night time at noon, there was zero visibility in some areas because the ash fall was so thick," Nunez said.

More than 30,000 ash masks and about 5,000 sacks of rice, along with medicine,



water and other supplies, were being sent to evacuation centers, Office of Civil Defense regional director Claudio Yucot said late Monday.

Food packs, water, medicine and other relief goods remain adequate but may run out by mid-February if the eruption continues and adequate supplies fail to come on time, officials said.

With its near-perfect cone, Mayon has long been popular with climbers and tourists but has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently. The 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) volcano has generated tourism revenues and jobs in Albay, which lies about 340 kilometers (210 miles) southeast of Manila.

ASIAN BRIEFS

9 people hurt in volcano eruption near Japanese ski resort

TOKYO (AP)—A volcanic eruption Tuesday injured at least nine people at a ski resort in central Japan, officials said. One or two of the injured were on a gondola when the window was shattered by volcanic rocks, and the others were believed to have been hit by rocks while on the slopes, said Makoto Shinohara, an official in Kusatsu town. Five people had broken bones, but none of the injuries were life-threatening. The Japanese military said six soldiers who were among about 30 on ski training were buried by an avalanche, but they had all been pulled out of the snow. The Japan Meteorological Agency said Mount Kusatsu-Shirane erupted around 10 a.m. A rest house at the resort was hit by volcanic rocks, but the extent of damage was not known, resort official Yasuaki Morita said. Aerial photographs showed a large swath of the snowy volcano covered by dark gray ash.

US says it wants to help Indonesia provide maritime security

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis says the Trump administration wants to help Indonesia play a central role in maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region. Mattis spoke briefly to reporters Tuesday after meeting with his Indonesian counterpart. His visit to Jakarta reflects one of the key tenets of the broad national security strategy that he publicly unveiled last Friday in Wash-

ington—building partnerships and strengthening alliances. Mattis told reporters Tuesday that the U.S. wants to help Indonesia realize its ambition to become a "maritime fulcrum" in the region. He says that, on that basis, the U.S. wants to work together with Indonesia on countering terrorism in the Asia-Pacific.

Hong Kong bookseller detained again by Chinese authorities

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong-based bookseller who was secretly detained in China has been taken away by Chinese authorities again after being released into house arrest last October, his daughter said Monday. Angela Gui told Radio Sweden, the English-language service of national broadcaster Sveriges Radio, that her father, Gui Minhai, was on a train with two Swedish diplomats when a group of police officers seized him. Gui, a Chinese-born Swedish national, ran a Hong Kong publishing company specializing in gossip tales about high-level Chinese politics when he disappeared from his Thai holiday home about two years ago. He was believed to have been spirited away by Chinese security agents to mainland China, where he later turned up in police custody.

Four employees were also held, but they were released within months while Gui was not freed until October. Even then, his daughter told the station, he was put into a "police-managed flat" in the city of Ningbo, near Shanghai, and remained under surveillance.

India, Pakistan continue trading fire and blame in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian and Pakistani soldiers again targeted each other's posts and villages along their volatile frontier in disputed Kashmir after a day's lull, killing at least one civilian and wounding three others, officials said Monday.

Fighting erupted overnight as the rivals traded gunfire and shelling until dawn Monday, leaving a civilian dead and three others injured on the Indian side. The two sides resumed intermittent fighting at several places later Monday, officials said.

The recent flare-up has left 13 civilians and nine soldiers dead and dozens injured on the two sides. The fighting also has caused extensive damage and sent tens of thousands of residents fleeing from their border homes.

In Pakistan, two army officials confirmed that skirmishes continued in various parts of Kashmir, causing panic among local villagers, who were moving to safer places. The officials said Pakistan responded to Indian fire only

after coming under attack.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Both of the nuclear-armed rivals routinely blame the other for starting any firing and insist they are only retaliating.

As in the past, both also called the violence an unprovoked violation of a 2003 cease-fire agreement and summoned each other's senior diplomats in their capitals to register their anger and protest. They also issued statements condemning the violence.

Officials say the latest violence has sent tens of thousands of villagers fleeing from their homes in hundreds of affected villages along the border to government buildings converted into temporary shelters or to the houses of friends and relatives living in safer places.

Hundreds of houses have been destroyed and bullets and shrapnel have scarred homes and walls on both sides. Hundreds of cattle and livestock have also perished in the con-

frontation.

Indian civilian official Arun Manhas said an entire village along the frontier was destroyed in a fire caused by the shelling. He said over 100 cattle were killed in the village.

"Damage to the huts and cattle is huge in the village. It was a daunting task to shift over 4,000 cows and buffaloes from the village along with about 1,200 residents who are mainly milk suppliers for the vast area," Manhas said.

Most of the fighting is taking place along the portion of the frontier which is somewhat-defined and where each country has a paramilitary border force guarding the lower-altitude 200-kilometer (125-mile) boundary separating Indian-controlled Kashmir and the Pakistani province of Punjab.

But the fighting has also escalated to the contentious frontier that includes a 740-kilometer (460-mile) rugged and mountainous stretch called the Line of Control that is guarded by the armies of India and Pakistan and splits Kashmir between the two nations.

World

Fighting rages amid Turkish push in Kurdish enclave in Syria

HASSA, Turkey (AP)—Intense fighting flared Monday as Turkish troops and their allies advanced on a Kurdish enclave in northwestern Syria, the third day of Ankara's offensive to oust a U.S.-allied Kurdish militia from the area, according to the militia and a war monitoring group.

Skirmishes between Turkish troops and Kurdish fighters also broke out farther east in Syria, threatening to widen the scope of the new front in the Syrian war that pits Turkey against Washington's main ally in the region.

The Turkish ground and air offensive on Afrin, code-named "Operation Olive Branch," began Saturday, raising tensions in the already-complicated Syrian conflict and threatening to further strain ties between Turkey and the U.S., both NATO allies. Turkey says it aims to create a 30-kilometer (20-mile) deep "secure zone" in Afrin, the Kurdish-controlled enclave on its border.

The Turkish military announced late Monday its first fatality to the operation. It said a soldier was killed in cross-border raid.

The U.N. Security Council was scheduled to convene later Monday to discuss the situation.

A NATO statement said it



Turkish army tanks enter Afrin, an enclave in northern Syria controlled by U.S.-allied Kurdish fighters, in Hassa, Hatay, Turkey, Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

has contacted Turkey over the offensive. NATO said Turkey has suffered from terrorism and has the right to self-defense but urged Ankara to do so in a "proportionate and measured way."

NATO also said it has no presence in Syria but that as

members of the anti-Islamic State coalition, "our focus is on the defeat" of the extremists.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Turkey has "legitimate security concerns" about Syria. Speaking to reporters traveling with him Sunday to

Indonesia, he said diplomats are working on a solution to Turkey's confrontation with the Syrian Kurdish fighters, known as the People's Defense Units or YPG, who have been the key U.S. military ally

in battling the Islamic State in Syria. Turkey considers the YPG a terrorist group because of its ties to its own Kurdish insurgency.

Mattis said Ankara gave the U.S. military advance notice

of its Afrin offensive.

The U.S. has offered direct military and logistical support to a Kurdish-led group known as the Syrian Democratic Forces that spearheaded the fight against IS in Syria. With the near total defeat of IS in both Syria and Iraq, the U.S. said it would create a 30,000-strong border force of existing Kurdish and Arab SDF members to ensure there would be no IS comeback.

That announcement has outraged Turkey, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has tried to walk back the U.S. position, saying it was portrayed incorrectly. The U.S. focus in recent years has been on eastern Syria. The area west of the Euphrates River, including Afrin, has been more of a problem for the U.S. because Turkey had said it would not accept a Kurdish military presence there.

The U.S. is discussing with Turkey and others the possibility of setting up a security zone on the Syria border to address Turkey's concerns about a Kurdish enclave there, Tillerson said while traveling in Europe on Monday. Such a zone could help stabilize the situation and meet Turkey's legitimate concerns over security, he said.

In Syria's Aleppo, old bazaar struggles to come back to life

ALEPPO, Syria (AP)—Fighting has long died down in Syria's largest city, but Aleppo's centuries-old market has yet to come back to life, more than a year after government forces retook rebel-held neighborhoods around the Old City.

Few shops have reopened in the once sprawling bazaar in the historic quarter, with UNESCO estimating that as much as 60 percent of the Old City was severely damaged and 30 percent destroyed.

Shop owners and local officials hope the international community will help renovate this important part of the city that witnessed some of the worst battles since Syria's crisis erupted in March 2011.

The bazaar, or souk, is believed to be one of the world's oldest covered markets. People would come from far to buy textiles, clothes, perfumes, spices and hand-made oriental products. The market is part of Aleppo's Old City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—which also boasts a 13th century citadel, the Great Mosque of Aleppo, also known as the Umayyad Mosque, and several other monuments, nearly

all of which have been damaged or destroyed.

Walking through the market's narrow streets, damage is everywhere: alleys blocked off with debris, domes knocked down, shops with no doors and piles of mangled metal at every turn.

But Ali Moaz is optimistic, standing outside his textiles shop he reopened in November for a few hours a day. The textile stores are in the part of the bazaar known as Khan al-Gumruk. Other parts—the spices market, the gold souk and the handicrafts bazaar are still deserted.

Sales are slim, but "as a start it's good," he says.

He was luckier than most: when he returned to this part of Aleppo a year ago, he found most of his store intact. "I felt as if I was born again," he said.

Mahmoud Mimeh was not so lucky. He returned last year to find his shop had no back wall and everything had been looted, his losses in the thousands of dollars, he said. He paid 1.25 million Syrian pounds—about \$2,700—just to have the wall fixed, a fortune in a country where many get paid less than a \$100 a month.

The market still has no water, electricity or telephone lines. They worry about thieves coming at night so Mimeh and the others have hired a guard to watch over their stores.

The government organized an exhibition at the bazaar in November, hoping to breathe new life into the Khan al-Gumruk after four years of fighting that engulfed the area.

Syrian rebels battling President Bashar Assad's forces stormed the eastern half of Aleppo in July 2012, including the Old City, triggering bloody battles that claimed thousands of lives and left much of what was once the country's commercial hub in ruins, scenes reminiscent of World War II devastation.

Rebuilding the market—including restoring its cobblestones alleys and domed covers with small openings to let the sunlight in to their past glory—won't be an easy task, and it will likely come with a price tag in millions of dollars.

At the market's edge, a crane is clearing debris from the Umayyad Mosque, its famous 11th century minaret reduced to a pile of stones.

Pence says US embassy will move to Jerusalem by end of 2019

JERUSALEM (AP)—U.S. Vice President Mike Pence told Israeli lawmakers Monday that the U.S. would put plans to move its embassy to Jerusalem on a fast track, drawing angry denunciations from Arabs who were forcibly removed from the hall during his speech before Israel's parliament.

The Trump administration's plan to accelerate the move of the embassy, announced in the first address of a sitting American vice president to the Knesset, marked the highlight of Pence's visit celebrating President Donald Trump's decision last month to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"Jerusalem is Israel's capital—and, as such, President Trump has directed the State Department to begin initial preparations to move our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," Pence told the lawmakers, vowing that the "United States Embassy will open before the end of next year."

Pence's speech drew protests from the Palestinians, with chief negotiator Saeb Erekat saying it "has proven that

the U.S. administration is part of the problem rather than the solution." Shortly after Pence began speaking, several Arab lawmakers voiced their displeasure by raising signs that said, "Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine," and heckling the vice president. They were forcibly removed from the plenum.

Despite the pandemonium, Pence expressed hope in an interview with The Associated Press after the speech that the Palestinians would re-enter negotiations. "Our message to President (Mahmoud) Abbas and the Palestinian Authority is: The door's open. The door's open. President Trump is absolutely committed to doing everything the United States can to achieve a peace agreement that brings an end to decades of conflict."

The embassy is to be opened in an existing U.S. facility that will be "retrofitted" to meet safety and security requirements, Undersecretary of State Steve Goldstein told reporters in Washington. He said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had yet to sign off on the safety plan for the new fa-

cility but would do so in coming weeks.

The most likely location is in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood, in a modern building that currently handles U.S. consular affairs like issuing passports, birth certificates and travel visas, said a U.S. official, who wasn't authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The U.S. consul-general works out of another Jerusalem facility that handles political affairs and diplomatic functions.

The retrofitted building had been originally envisioned as an interim plan that would allow Trump to quickly fulfill his vow to move the embassy.

Yet it was unclear after Pence's speech whether Trump still intended to break ground later on a new embassy elsewhere in Jerusalem or to use the retrofitted one permanently.

"We expect that to be the embassy," Goldstein said of the facility that will open next year. "We do not have a plan at current to build a new embassy."

Focus

Trump business ethics pledges left plenty room for profiting

This Dec. 21, 2016, file photo shows the Trump International Hotel in Washington.

By **BERNARD CONDON AND TAMI ABDOLLAH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Among the many promises Donald Trump made a year ago to assure people he wouldn't profit off his presidency, one stood out for its boldness: a pledge to donate the profits from any foreign governments staying in his namesake hotels to the U.S. Treasury.

Today, after a year in which groups associated with Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Kuwait have booked rooms, hosted events and spent thousands of dollars at the president's hotel in Washington, no such payments to the Treasury have been made. Trump officials, who have openly questioned how closely they should scrutinize their guests, initially pledged to make a payment at the end of 2017 and now say they would have "information to share" near the end of next month.

An Associated Press analysis of the promises Trump made to draw a "red line" between his businesses and his administration found that, while he has kept to the letter of many pledges, he has exploited the vague language of others, creating at least the appearance that he's profiting off his presidency.

Since his inauguration a year ago, the Trump Organization has secured dozens of trademarks from foreign governments, pursued possible projects in Scotland and the Dominican Republic, enjoyed free publicity from Trump's frequent visits to his resorts, raked in big profits from lobbyists and power brokers at his Washington hotel, and launched two hotel chains.

"My overall ethics grade for the Trump administration is an F," said ethics lawyer Kathleen Clark of Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

To be sure, ethics experts didn't like Trump's pledges from the start. As promised, Trump resigned from positions

at hundreds of companies, set up a trust to hold his assets, handed day-to-day management responsibilities to two sons and hired an ethics lawyer to vet business deals.

But what drew their ire is what he didn't do: sell off his assets completely. They argued that as long as he continues to profit off his sprawling business empire, with branded hotels, golf courses, licensing deals and other interests in more than 20 countries, Trump remains vulnerable to those seeking to influence his policies.

"Meaningless," is how Walter Shaub, then the chief federal ethics official, described the promises soon after Trump's lawyer announced them at a news conference last year.

Alan Garten, the general counsel of the Trump Organization, told AP that the company takes its ethics pledges seriously and has thrown considerable resources into fulfilling them.

"I feel very confident that we are meeting our obligations," he said.

AP looks at how Trump has lived up to those promises, one by one:

NO NEW FOREIGN DEALS

A promise to make no new deals has been kept only in the strictest sense of "new" and "deals." The Trump Organization contends it has only carried on with existing deals, not new business.

In the Dominican Republic, for example, the Trump Organization has been talking again to a wealthy family to revive a long-dead licensing agreement struck a decade ago to develop an oceanside resort. In Scotland, the Trump Organization was moving ahead with plans to open a second golf course at its resort in Aberdeen. And in Indonesia, a local developer is building two resorts bearing the Trump name.

Another problem area is trademarks.

Since the inauguration, the Trump Organization has been granted dozens of trademark protections in several countries. In China it was granted preliminary approval for 38 trademarks for hotels and golf clubs and other businesses early this year. Trump's daughter, Ivanka, got preliminary approval for three trademarks on the same day that she and her husband, Jared Kushner, hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife at a dinner at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort.

The Trump Organization told AP it applied for the trademarks before Trump became president.

But ethics experts say the expansion of old projects carries the same potential conflict as new deals: A sitting president could be financially beholden to a foreign government.

"These are meaningless lines being drawn," said Larry Noble, general counsel with the Campaign Legal Center, a Washington-based public interest group. "The point is, they're interacting with foreign businesses and foreign governments by doing that. So virtually all the potential conflicts you get with a new business you get with an expanding business."

AVOID 'EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT'

A six-page white paper by Trump's lawyers outlining his ethics promises a year ago pledged that Trump would uphold the high standards of his office by always acting "beyond reproach" and never giving "even the appearance of a conflict."

A few numbers suggest he's failed on that promise.

Since the election, Trump has doubled membership fees at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, to \$200,000, an increase that could be seen as a way to cash in on those seeking to rub shoulders with the president.

The president has also spent one of every three days of his

presidency visiting his properties, and he and his staff have mentioned them at least 35 times in tweets and public comments, according to watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW). Ethics experts have long argued that the frequent references and photos of Trump strolling his golf courses and dining in his restaurants amount to an ongoing advertisement for Trump's brand.

Then there's the taxpayer money spent at Trump resorts for the Secret Service and administration staff members who travel with the president—money for lodging, food and other expenses that eventually goes into Trump's pocket. To date, the administration has not released an accounting of such costs.

Also, according to a report last week by the watchdog group Public Citizen, the Trump Organization has taken in more than \$600,000 from dozens of political organizations, companies, foreign governments and officials using its hotels and resorts.

Among those were Saudi government officials, the Malaysian prime minister, two pro-Turkish groups and the Kuwaiti ambassador. Special interest groups reported to have held or plan to hold events at the properties included those representing miners, oil drillers, bankers, payday lenders, hedge fund operators, insurers, funeral home directors and commercial real estate investors.

Several lawsuits have accused the president of violating an emoluments clause in the U.S. Constitution forbidding presidents from taking gifts or money from "any King, Prince, or foreign State." A judge last month threw out one such lawsuit filed by CREW, saying it is an issue that Congress should address first.

"Because of his steady stream of conflicts," said CREW Executive Director

Noah Bookbinder, "we have to question whether each decision he makes was made in the best interest of the American people or the best interest of his bottom line."

CAREFUL VETTING OF US DEALS

The way the Trump Organization portrays it, the vetting of U.S. deals for conflicts, as outlined in the president's white paper, has been going well—perhaps too well.

Exhibit A: the slow rollout of its two new hotel brands—a mid-priced chain, called Scion, and the budget-conscious American Idea.

Both are departures from Trump's existing luxury hotels, and ethics experts have howled in protest that the president appeared to be exploiting his White House fame to profit with these new chains. The official plans were ambitious: as many as 100 new Scions, for instance, in just three years.

But aside from a deal with a single developer in Mississippi, there have been no announcements. Trump critics say developers are reluctant to join up with a Trump brand that has become so controversial. But the Trump Organization says the lack of deals shows it is following through on ethics promises made a year ago.

"Making sure every 'I' is dotted and every 'T' is crossed and everything is perfect—does that kill deals? One hundred percent," Trump's son Eric told The New York Times last month. "Is it the right thing to do when your father is commander in chief? 100 percent it is."

Bobby Burchfield, an outside lawyer hired to oversee U.S. deals for conflicts, told AP the Trump Organization has been careful to meet its white paper obligations, adding that he's gotten no pushback when he's told to change transactions or kill them.

Burchfield, who was general counsel to George H.W. Bush's re-election campaign in

1992, said he has spent about one-fifth of his time on Trump business in the past year and has submitted about two dozen written approvals for deals and transactions, a requirement for any to go through.

Burchfield rejected any suggestion that the launch of American Idea even appears as if the president is trying to profit off the presidency.

"Appearance to whom?" he asked. "It's a very vague standard."

SEPARATION FROM BUSINESS

Trump appears to have resigned from positions he holds with the roughly 550 Trump Organization entities in more than 20 countries. But the changes appear to be more cosmetic than substantive.

Trump still owns those businesses through the Donald J. Trump Revocable Trust set up to hold his assets during the presidency. What's more, a provision added to the trust allowed Trump to withdraw profits and underlying assets at any time.

That has stirred suspicions that Trump is putting his private interests ahead of the nation.

For example, critics blasted last month's tax overhaul, noting that it set lower rates for real estate "pass through" businesses that figure prominently in the president's holdings.

"If the president does not divest from ownership, then suspicions galore arise that the president can be bought," said Craig Holman, a government affairs lobbyist for Public Citizen.

DONATE PROFITS AT HIS HOTELS

Trump's pledge to donate profits from foreign governments using his hotels to the U.S. Treasury was initially slammed by ethics experts because it didn't include all his properties, such as his resorts, and left it up to Trump to define "profit."

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: Weeping yaupon, like a living piece of art

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The weeping yaupon holly is beyond stunning right now. No, the weeping plant wasn't nuked or genetically modified to obtain that graceful appearance. It was found naturally and native and then simply propagated vegetatively by cutting.

Yaupons are native geographically in almost a third of North America. Botanically speaking they are known as *Ilex vomitoria* with the weeping type known as *Ilex vomitoria* 'Pendula.' Native Americans made a tea out of the leaves which is still in practice by gardeners and herbalists in some Southeastern counties. In no way am I touting this and the species name vomitoria gives clear indication to the reason.

The weeping yaupon, however, is one of the best small trees to use in the landscape. When I lived in Rincon Ga., I had one as an accent at the corner of the home. At the Columbus Botanical Garden where I was the director, the back-patio area had one that was like a beautiful piece of sculpture welcoming all bridal parties. And recently I saw a pair at a McDonalds in Columbus, Ga., that were loaded with so many bright cherry-red-fruit, it was indescribable.

This winter all yaupon hollies seem to have the most dazzling berry crop I can ever remember. Who knows why perhaps it was just perfect pollination conditions. But a weeping yaupon with thousands of berries hanging downward in a cascading fashion is a joy more gardeners should experience.

Use them as an accent, a specimen or focal point or in a narrow garden. Think of it as a living piece of garden



TNS
Weeping yaupons can reach 20 feet tall and are prolific berry producers.



Weeping yaupons can be used in smaller parts of the garden as accents, or as focal points. They are like living pieces of art. TNS

cedar waxwings, and the bob-white quail.

The weeping yaupon can reach 30 feet in height, but most I have seen are 15 to 20 feet with a 6 to 12-foot spread. When choosing a site, remember that a lot of sun gives best berry production. Prepare a bed by incorporating three to four inches of organic matter along with 2 pounds of a 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 square feet. When digging your planting hole keep in mind that wider is better, al-

lowing for good root expansion and establishment. Complete the project by adding a good layer of mulch after planting.

Feed your holly about four weeks after transplanting with one pound of an 8-8-8 fertilizer per 100 square feet. Established plantings can be given this application in April and August. Yaupons do not like to dry out. If you have an abundance of berries, many will drop due to drying out, so give supplemental irrigation during long drought periods.

Weeping yaupon hollies are cold hardy from zones 7-9. If you are reading this in a colder area, I assure you there are other weeping trees to give your landscape that wow factor.

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.



The cedar waxwing finds yaupon holly berries irresistible. TNS



Yaupon hollies feed numerous birds, including American robins. TNS



Pears have been cultivated around the world for thousands of years. In *The Odyssey*, the Greek poet laureate Homer lauds them as a "gift of the gods." Roman farmers documented extensive pear growing and grafting techniques. Thanks to their versatility and long storage life, pears were a valuable commodity along trading routes of the ancient world. Pear trees brought to Oregon and Washington in the 1800s thrived in the unique growing conditions found in the Pacific Northwest.

Pear blossom

Source: usapears.org

Life & Style

Del Toro's 'Shape of Water' poised to lead Oscar nominations

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Guillermo del Toro's lavish monster romance "The Shape of Water" will vie for the most Oscar nominations Tuesday, but just as much attention may be focused on categories where women could make history.

Nominations for the 90th annual Academy Awards will begin at 8:22 a.m. EST, with a second wave of nominees announced live on ABC's "Good Morning America" at 8:38 a.m. The announcement will also be live-streamed at Oscar.com and Oscars.org. Tiffany Haddish and Andy Serkis will join John Bailey, president of the film academy, to announce the nominees from Beverly Hills, California.

While this year's Oscar race has been unusually wide-open, "The Shape of Water" has a chance to tie "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land" with a record 14 nominations.

Yet many will be watching the best director category more closely. "Lady Bird" filmmaker Greta Gerwig is expected to be just the fifth woman nominated in the category, and the first since Kathryn Bigelow was in 2010. "Mudbound" cinematographer Rachel Morrison could also become the first woman ever nominated for best cinematography.

Scrutiny of both categories, especially best director, has heightened in an awards season that has coincided with the Me Too movement and the toppling of numerous prominent figures in the movie business. For the last two decades, Oscar nominations morning has often belonged to Harvey Weinstein, the now disgraced movie mogul whose promotion strategies have influenced a generation of best picture campaigns.

But this year is different. The cascading fallout of sexual harassment scandals has lent new urgency to efforts to correct Hollywood's poor record of gender equality and sparked the Time's Up initiative intent on balancing the scales. If Gerwig is nominated for best director, she will follow only Lina Wertmüller, Jane Campion, Sofia Coppola and Bigelow, the sole woman to win (for "The Hurt Locker").

The scandals have shaped other categories, too. James Franco, who has denied allegations of sexual misconduct, is a borderline best actor contender for "The Disaster Artist." Christopher Plummer,



In this Feb. 26, 2017 file photo, Oscar statuettes appear backstage at the Oscars in Los Angeles.

who replaced Kevin Spacey in Ridley Scott's "All the Money in the World," may sneak into the best supporting actor category just two months after shooting his last-minute performance.

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," starring Frances McDormand as a mother out for vengeance for her raped and murdered daughter, has claimed the mantle of most timely Oscar contender even while many have claimed it's out-of-touch when it comes to race. It remains the best picture front-runner after winning best ensemble at Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards.

But certainty has been hard to come by this season, which will culminate in the March 4 ceremony hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. Gerwig's "Lady Bird," Jordan Peele's "Get Out," Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk" and Steven Spielberg's "The Post" are all in the mix, too. The individual acting categories seem more established after a litany of awards for McDormand, Gary Oldman ("Darkest Hour"), Allison Janney ("I, Tonya") and Sam Rockwell ("Three Billboards").

"Moonlight," "Hidden Figures" and "Fences" last year offered a reprieve from two straight years of #OscarsSoWhite online protests. This year's acting field is expected to include a handful of black nominees including "Get Out" breakthrough star Daniel Kaluuya, "The Shape of Water" co-star Octavia

Spencer and "Mudbound's" Mary J. Blige.

Last year's Oscars broadcast, also hosted by Kimmel, drew an average of 32.9 million viewers for ABC, a four percent drop from the prior year. More worrisome, however, was a steeper slide in the key demographic of adults aged 18-49, whose viewership was down 14 percent from 2016.

Though the show ran especially long, at three hours and 49 minutes, it finished with a bang: the infamous envelope mix-up that led to "La La Land" being incorrectly announced as the best picture before "Moonlight" was crowned.

This year, the academy has prohibited the PwC accountants who handle the envelopes from using cellphones or social media during the show. The accounting firm on Monday also unveiled several reforms including the addition of a third balloting partner in the show's control room. Neither of the PwC representatives involved in the mishap last year, Brian Cullinan or Martha Ruiz, will return to the show.

But the movie business has larger accounting problems. Movie attendance hit a 24-year low in 2017 despite the firepower of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2." An especially dismal summer movie season was 92 million admissions shy of summer 2016, according to the National Alliance

of Theater Owners.

Still, the summer produced one best-picture favorite, "Dunkirk," which grossed

\$525.6 million worldwide. Warner Bros.' Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman," released in June to \$821.8 million in tick-

et sales, became the highest grossing movie ever directed by a woman. It mounted an Oscar campaign and while it seems to be on the outside of the best picture race, "Wonder Woman" could win nods elsewhere, including best adapted screenplay.

But the box-office hit that has carved the most unlikely path to the Oscars is "Get Out." It opened back in February on Oscar weekend, and went on to pocket \$254.7 million worldwide. Though "Get Out" and "Dunkirk" will likely lend a blockbuster punch to the best-picture field—something that has historically helped ratings of the broadcast—the other films in the mix are smaller indies.

It should be a dominant if bittersweet day for 20th Century Fox. Its specialty label, Fox Searchlight, is behind both "Three Billboards" and "The Shape of Water," and Fox released "The Post." Yet those wins may soon count for the Walt Disney Co., which last month reached a deal to purchase Fox for \$52.4 billion.

AP

† Merced Jones Castro Sikyang

Lovingly known as Merced Santa and Chebing
Born on: March 2, 1969 Died on: January 9, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her:

Mother: †Margarita Jones Castro

Father: †Jose Lizama Castro

Nephew: †Vince Peter Castro Garrido

Her memories will always live in the hearts of her:

Husband: John Sikyang

Children and Grandchildren:

Eloise Jones Castro (Elyshia, Peter, Damian, Taylon, Andrew Jose); Jarvis Sikyang/Jeanne Deal (Jillianne, Jerrel); Jed/Elizabeth Sikyang (Luis John); Josh Sikyang

Brothers/Sisters-in-Law:

Marian Jones Castro (children & grandchildren); Lourdes Castro Duenas/Raymond Duenas (children & grandchildren); George Jones Castro/Ming Yun (Children); Annette Jones Castro/Winfred A. Pua (Children & grandchildren); Ivan Jones Castro (Children); Jolynn Jones Castro/Jason Reyes (Children); Elway Castro; Jose M. Castro

Mass of intention is being offered
Monday to Thursday at 6pm at San Roque Church.
Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 26, 2018.
Her remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Homes.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11am
followed by the interment service at Tanapag Public
Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Children and Families

They are musical icons, but they've never won a Grammy Award

NEW YORK CITY (AP)—Remember when the cast of the TV series “Glee” earned a Grammy nomination for their version of Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believin’” at the 2011 Grammys, pitting them against Sade, Maroon 5 and Paramore?

It’s fair that you don’t recall that moment—but guess who never earned a nomination for “Don’t Stop Believin’”? Journey.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famers have never even earned a Grammy Award, and have only been nominated once in their entire career.

They’re one of many respected acts in music to have somehow been bypassed by the Grammys, despite much younger acts like Kanye West and Beyonce winning more than 20 awards each.

“I’m very grateful that the fans are (still) there regardless of what I have sitting on my shelf,” Journey’s Neal Schon said in an interview with The Associated Press. “If it happens, it’s a nice gesture and something to look it at in memory of everything you’ve



done and accomplished, but you know what? I’ve got it in my heart.”

The Rolling Stones, surprisingly, have only been awarded two Grammys, and Led Zeppelin finally picked it up its first Grammy in 2014. Lou Reed only has one win, for best long form music video, though his for-

mer band, The Velvet Underground, has never been rewarded for its music.

Below we take a look at icons who currently, and sadly, can’t put these two words before their names: Grammy winner.

■ **Diana Ross***, 12 nominations: Stop in the name of love! How could this

be? Maybe this counts for something: Ross did receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, a noncompetitive honor, from the Recording Academy in 2012.

■ **Snoop Dogg**, 16 nominations: Give this dog a bone!

■ **Bob Marley***, 0 nominations: The first reggae Grammy was presented in 1985,

In this Nov. 19, 2017 file photo, Diana Ross, lifetime achievement award recipient, poses in the press room at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles. Ross, along with Bob Marley, Chuck Berry, the Beach Boys and Journey, are part of a group of iconic musicians who have never won a Grammy.

AP

four years after Marley died. Despite that, we all know he should have won or earned nominations for album, song and record of the year while he was alive. At least his children are decorated with Grammys: Ziggy and Stephen have eight wins each, while Damian, Cedella and Sharon have three each.

■ **Chuck Berry*** 0 nominations: Beethoven just rolled over in his grave.

■ **The Beach Boys***, 4 nominations: “Good Vibrations” brought bad vibrations when it lost in three categories at the 1967 Grammys.

■ **Patsy Cline***, 0 nominations: Cline died in 1963, just four years after the Grammys handed out its first award.

■ **Jimi Hendrix***, 1 nomination: What stings more is that his sole nomination was for his instrumental performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and not an original song.

■ **Queen**, 4 nominations: Bog Seger and Chicago are to blame for beating out “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “Another One Bites the Dust” at the Grammys.

Cosby jokes in 1st show since 2015 he ‘used to be’ comedian

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Cosby performed in public for the first time since a sex abuse scandal embroiled him in 2015, joking that he “used to be a comedian” and playing with a jazz band in his hometown as a retrial looms in his criminal sexual assault case.

The 80-year-old entertainer took the stage for about an hour Monday night at a Philadelphia jazz club for his first show since May 2015. Before a friendly crowd, he told stories, honored old friends and finished by leading the band in a set, first using his mouth to scat in place of a missing horn section and then taking a turn at the drums.

Cosby, handing the drumsticks off to the bass player’s 11-year-old son, asked if the boy knew who he was and then told him.

“I used to be a comedian,” Cosby deadpanned.

Cosby reminisced about his childhood, telling the crowd about how when he was 4 he grilled a relative about the impending birth of his brother.

■ **Notorious B.I.G.**, 4 nominations: It’s sort of heartbreaking that Biggie lost two Grammys at the 1998 show, which occurred almost a year after his death, to his close friend Puff Daddy. But what’s worse? Digesting the fact that B.I.G.’s epic song, “Hypnotize,” lost best rap solo performance to Will Smith’s “Men in Black.”

■ **Tupac Shakur**, 6 nominations: At least Tupac lost to the Fugees, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and Eminem’s debut single, “My Name Is.”

■ **Depeche Mode**, 5 nominations: Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson out-danced Depeche Mode in the 2000s when the group was up for best dance recording in separate years.

■ **Patti Smith**, 4 nominations: Sheryl Crow and Fiona Apple rocked harder than Smith, according to the Grammys, when Smith was nominated for best female rock vocal performance in two different years. Smith also lost to Carol Burnett and Jimmy Carter in the best spoken word album category.

■ **Janis Joplin(asterisk)**, 2 nominations: At least Joplin lost at the 1972 show to Carole King’s “Tapestry” and Aretha Franklin’s “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

■ **Nas**, 13 nominations: Is there another rapper as artistic and lyrically deep as Nas? He’s almost the kind of artist the Grammys were created for, but, somehow, he’s always walked away empty handed.

‘Hobbit’ director Peter Jackson making WWI documentary

LONDON (AP)—“The Lord of the Rings” director Peter Jackson is going from Middle Earth to the Western Front, transforming grainy black-and-white footage of World War I into 3-D color for a new documentary film.

Jackson’s movie, announced Monday, is among dozens of artworks commissioned by British cultural bodies to commemorate 100 years since the final year of the 1914-18 war.

The New Zealand-based director of “The Hobbit” and “Lord of the Rings” series has restored film from the Imperial War Museum using cutting-edge digital technology and

hand coloring, pairing it with archive audio recollections from veterans of the conflict.

He said the aim is to close the 100-year time gap and show “what it was like to fight in the war.”

“We all know what First World War footage looks like,” Jackson said in comments broadcast Monday. “It’s sped-up, it’s fast, like Charlie Chaplin, grainy, jumpy, scratchy, and it immediately blocks you from actually connecting with the events on screen.

“But the results we have got are absolutely unbeliev-

able. They are way beyond what I expected.

“This footage looks like it was shot in the last week or two, with high definition cameras.”

The film will premiere during the London Film Festival in October before being broadcast on BBC television. Every school in the U.K. will also receive a copy.

The film is part of the government-backed 14-18 Now project, which has presented works by more than 200 artists over four years to remember a conflict in which



Jackson

NBC’s Kelly says Fonda has ‘no business’ lecturing her

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC’s Megyn Kelly lashed out at actress Jane Fonda Monday in a simmering dispute over an interview gone awry, even invoking the old “Hanoi Jane” nickname.

Fonda had appeared alongside Robert Redford on one of the first “Megyn Kelly Today” installments in September for an interview to promote a new movie. It became tense when the subject of plastic surgery came up; while saying the 80-year-old actress looked “amazing,” Kelly said that “I read that you said you’re not proud to admit you’ve had work done. Why not?”

Fonda glared at Kelly and then said, “We really want to talk about that right now?”

She shifted the conversation to the movie.

She’s since criticized Kelly for bringing it up, telling Variety over the weekend that “it was so inappropriate. It shows that she’s not that good an interviewer.”

It was also joked about when Fonda and Lily Tomlin appeared last week on an earlier hour of “Today.” When Hoda Kotb asked the women how long they had been friends, Tomlin joked, “I think before your first facelift.”

“Who are you, Megyn Kelly?” Fonda said.

It was all too much for Kelly, who said that it’s time to address the “poor me routine.” She noted that Fonda has dis-

cussed her surgery on several media outlets prior to coming on her show and has talked about giving a cultural face



Fonda



Kelly

to older women. If that’s the case, “then her plastic surgery is tough to ignore,” Kelly said.

“I gave her the chance to empower other women, young and old, on a subject which she purports to know well and she rejected it,” she said. “That’s OK. But I have no re-

grets about the question. Nor am I in the market for a lesson from Jane Fonda on what is and is not appropriate. After all, this is a woman whose name is synonymous with outrage.”

She noted that many veterans still call her “Hanoi Jane” because of her 1972 trip to North Vietnam. Fonda has apologized for being photographed with anti-aircraft guns but not for the trip itself, where she criticized U.S. war policy in the capital of the country that the U.S. was fighting.

“The moral indignation is a little much,” Kelly said, adding Fonda “has no business lecturing anyone on what qualifies as offensive.”

Diamond says he has Parkinson's, retires from touring

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Diamond is retiring from touring after he says he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Days shy of his 77th birthday,

the rock legend is canceling his tour dates in Australia and New Zealand for March. He was on his 50th anniversary tour.

The Rock and Roll Hall of

Famer offered his "sincerest apologies" to those who planned to go to his shows and says he plans to still write, record and work on other proj-

ects "for a long time to come."

Diamond's numerous hits include "Sweet Caroline,"

"America," "Love on the

Rocks" and "Hello Again."

Diamond turns 77 on

Wednesday and will get the lifetime achievement award at Sunday's Grammy awards.



In this Oct. 20, 2014 file photo, Neil Diamond performs on NBC's "Today" show in New York.

AP

UK's Princess Eugenie, daughter of Prince Andrew, engaged

LONDON (AP)—It will be a busy year for royal weddings: Princess Eugenie is engaged to be married later this year, several months after her cousin Prince Harry's nuptials.

Eugenie, the daughter of Prince Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, will marry Jack Brooksbank in the fall, Buckingham Palace said Monday.

The palace said that the wedding will take place at St. George's Chapel in Windsor. Prince Harry and his American fiancée Meghan Markle will marry at the same cha-

pel in May.

The 27-year-old Eugenie was the second child born to Andrew and Ferguson.

Ferguson tweeted: "Total joy!!" to mark the engagement and said the couple "float with laughter and love."

Andrew said he was "thrilled" with the announcement.

"Jack is an absolutely outstanding young man and Eugenie and he have got to know each other over a number of years, and I'm really thrilled for them," the prince said.

The groom's parents, Nic-

ola and George Brooksbank, also welcomed the news, saying they couldn't be more delighted.

Eugenie is the granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II and is eighth in line to the throne.

The palace said she and Brooksbank became engaged in Nicaragua earlier this month. They have been dating for a number of years.

Brooksbank has been working as a brand ambassador for Casamigos tequila's expansion into Britain and Europe.

Eugenie is a director at the Hauser and Wirth art galleries.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Berlin museums return works sold at Nazi-era auction

BERLIN (AP)—Berlin's city museums authority says it has returned 11 works that were part of prominent art owner Margarete Oppenheim's collection and were auctioned off under Nazi rule in 1936. The Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation said Monday the works were found in two museums' collections. Of the 11 pieces returned to Oppenheim's heirs, the foundation bought back five—two works from the Danube School and three 18th-century porcelain pieces. Margarete Oppenheim, the wife of chemist and industrialist Franz Oppenheim, had one of Germany's largest and most valuable art collections. She and her heirs were of Jewish descent. The heritage foundation said it can safely

be assumed that the auction, the year after Oppenheim's death, was not held at a time of her executors' choosing and the sale can be classified as resulting from persecution.

Louvre Abu Dhabi reportedly replaces map missing Qatar

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A state-linked newspaper in the United Arab Emirates says the Louvre Abu Dhabi has replaced a map at the museum that didn't show Qatar amid a diplomatic crisis pitting Doha against four Arab nations—including the UAE. The report Monday by The National, an English-language newspaper in Abu Dhabi, quoted a statement from the museum saying "the inaccuracy was an oversight and so we have replaced the map on display."

The map was in a children's section at the museum. The museum did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press. Qataris online had criticized the map as an effort to erase their peninsular nation amid the diplomatic crisis. The crisis began June 5 and saw Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE all boycott Qatar.

Lindsay Lohan's hockey-playing cousin punched at restaurant

BOSTON (AP)—A Boston College hockey player who happens to be Lindsay Lohan's cousin is out indefinitely after he was punched at a Boston restaurant and sent to the hospital. The university said in a statement Sunday that graduate student Kevin Lohan was the victim of an "unprovoked assault." Police are investigat-

ing a report of an assault at a Domino's restaurant at about 2:30 a.m. Friday. Lohan's girlfriend told police they were in line when a group of six to eight people began pushing, and one knocked Lohan to the ground with a punch to the face. The suspects fled and Lohan went to the hospital with a jaw injury. The 6-foot-5, 217-pound defenseman transferred to BC after four years at Michigan. Lohan, of Cold Spring Harbor, New York, has three assists in 14 games for the Eagles.

Shock jock Don Imus to retire from his morning show in March

NEW YORK (AP)—Don Imus, the cantankerous radio host whose career was temporarily derailed when he made racist and sexist remarks, is retiring from his morning show.

WABC-AM says Imus' last morning drive time show on New York-based station will be March 29. On Twitter, the show announced: "Turn out the lights... the party's over." In 2007, Imus was fired by CBS Radio and MSNBC for using a racial slur to talk about the Rutgers women's basketball team. He later apologized and got a new gig a few months later. The 77-year-old veteran radio personality, who had stints at WNBC in New York and WHK in Cleveland, offered a stew of media and politics on his shows and often had key newsmakers calling in to weigh in on a day's events.

Connecticut theater director accused of sexual misconduct

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut theater's artistic director is on ad-

ministrative leave due to allegations of sexual misconduct. Long Wharf Theatre board chair Laura Pappano says she placed Gordon Edelstein on leave Monday following a report by The New York Times. The newspaper says it interviewed four women on the record who alleged unwanted sexual contact by Edelstein since his arrival in 2002, including one who complained to theater management in 2006. Other former employees alleged the prominent director made sexually explicit remarks at the New Haven theater. Pappano says they knew of no instance in which a complaint was filed and not dealt with. She says many accusations detailed by the newspaper weren't previously reported. Edelstein didn't immediately return messages seeking comment.

Online guide helps parent recognize child depression

DEAR ABBY: Seeing a child you love struggle with depression is such a helpless feeling. Parents wonder how to talk to them as they withdraw from the people and activities that used to bring them joy. You just want them to feel better again.

Many times, parents tell themselves it's just a phase their child will grow out of, but one in five teens is affected by depression. It's important for parents to know that children even younger can become depressed, and that girls are twice as likely as boys to experience it. Depressed kids are more likely to abuse alcohol and other drugs and are at greater risk for attempting suicide.

To help concerned parents reach out to their hurting children, USA.gov has created the free online-only Kids and Depression guide at www.USA.gov/features/kids-and-depression. The guide's sound, compassionate advice helps parents, grandparents and teachers recognize symptoms and risk factors in young people. It explains treatment options, including counseling and medication. And it also includes age-appropriate information about depression that parents can share with their children, elementary age through college.

Abby, thank you for the love you show your readers, and for sharing this potentially lifesaving guide with them.

NANCY TYLER, SENIOR EDITOR, USA.GOV

DEAR NANCY: You're welcome. I'm glad you wrote because I receive many letters from worried parents and depressed young people. I know the online guide will provide important information they will find useful.

Risk factors for depression in young people include stressful life events, such as a family member's divorce or death, bullying, trouble with school or friends, low self-esteem, or a disability or chronic illness. Symptoms of depression that last two weeks or more are significant. They may include sensitivity to criticism and outbursts of anger, sadness, headaches or stomachaches, changes in sleep or eating habits, lower grades and withdrawal from people and activities.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in 2015, 3 million kids aged 12 to 17 experienced a major depressive episode in the past year. Because, as you stated, depression can be a significant factor in suicide attempts, the guide provides information to help parents recognize the warning signs of suicidal thoughts in their children.

If you think your child might be suicidal, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling (800) 273-8255. It offers confidential help 24 hours a day.

DEAR ABBY: Should each spouse give an anniversary gift

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

to the other, or is it solely up to the man to arrange for the special occasion and gift-giving?

SOON-TO-CELEBRATE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SOON: An anniversary is not a surprise party. When the special occasion arises, celebrating shouldn't be the responsibility of just one spouse. The arrangements can be made by whomever is better at doing it, but gift-giving should be a two-way street.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Saipan Tribune

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Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance January 25th, 2018 at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from December 21st, 2017
II. Public Comments
III. Reports
1. Administrator
2. Chair
a. 2017 SHEFA Annual Report
3. Committees
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. Old Business
1. Prior Learning Assessment
2. NMTH Request for Reconsideration (Open Enrollment)
V. New Business
1. Winter/Spring 2018 Application Status
VI. Executive Session - Appeals (dosed)
VII. Misc.
VIII. Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

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/S/ ANTONIO P. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
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REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-JUDICIARY-01

SUBMISSION DATE: January 27, 2018 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

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Pelicans pull off victory over Bulls in 2OT



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—DeMarcus Cousins had 44 points, 24 rebounds and 10 assists, Anthony Davis scored 34 points, and the All-Star pair led a 17-point New Orleans comeback in the final five minutes of regulation before the Pelicans pulled out a 132-128 victory over the Chicago Bulls in double overtime Monday night.

Cousins scored seven points in the second overtime on a 3-pointer, a turnaround jumper and two free throws with 8.2 seconds left. He became the first NBA player since Hall of Famer Wilt Chamberlain in 1968 to have as many as 40 points, 20 rebounds and 10 assists in a game.

E'Twaun Moore scored 15 points, including a 3 in the second overtime to help the Pelicans win for the fifth time in six games.

Jerian Grant had 22 points and 13 assists, and Robin Lopez also scored 22 for the Bulls, who appeared well on their way to their fifth victory in six games when they opened the fourth quarter with a 23-5 run to take their largest lead at 104-86.

Bucks 109, Suns 105

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton scored 35 points and hit two long jumpers in the final minute, Malcolm Brogdon added 32 points and Milwaukee beat Phoenix.

Brogdon added a steal with 40 seconds left after the Bucks double-teamed guard Devin Booker in the backcourt. Brogdon lobbed a cross-court pass to Middleton, who hit a jumper from the left corner with 24 seconds left for a 105-100 lead.

T.J. Warren had 23 points for Phoenix, which has lost four of five.

Rockets 99, Heat 90

In Houston, James Harden scored 28 points and Houston overcame a big early deficit to



beat Miami.

Miami led by double digits before halftime, but the game stayed close throughout most of the second half. It was tied with about three minutes left when Harden hit a 3-pointer just before the shot clock expired. That was the start of a 7-2 run that made it 95-90

with 38 seconds left.

James Johnson missed a 3-pointer on the other end, but Miami's Hassan Whiteside grabbed the rebound. Harden blocked his layup, and Houston added a dunk by Clint Capela with 18 seconds left.

Grizzlies 105,

76ers 101

In Memphis, Marc Gasol scored 19 points, Tyreke Evans added 18 points and eight assists, and the pair led a fourth-quarter rally that lifted Memphis over Philadelphia.

Mario Chalmers added 17 points, including a pair of free

throws with 6.2 seconds remaining, to help the Grizzlies overcome a 15-point deficit. Myke Henry, signed to a two-way contract with Memphis earlier this month, had 12 points.

Mavericks 98, Wizards 75

In Dallas, Harrison Barnes had

AP
New Orleans Pelicans center DeMarcus Cousins (0) goes to the basket against Chicago Bulls center Robin Lopez (42) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. The Pelicans won in double overtime, 132-128.

20 points and 10 rebounds, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. scored 17 and Dallas finished a season sweep of playoff-contending Washington.

The Mavericks slowed a recent slide that had them headed back to the bottom of the Western Conference, ending their second three-game losing streak since the start of January.

Hawks 104, Jazz 90

In Atlanta, Dennis Schroder scored 20 points, Taurean Prince added 17 and Atlanta kept up its improving play with a victory over Utah.

The Hawks began to pull away late in the third quarter, closing with a 13-3 run for a 74-63 lead that was their largest to that point. Dewayne Dedmon knocked down a 3-pointer, Malcolm Delaney converted a four-point play and Schroder scored off a couple of drives.

Hornets 112, Kings 107

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker had 26 points, Jeremy Lamb added 18 and Charlotte bounced back from a tough loss to beat Sacramento.

Nic Batum and Marvin Williams each had 14 points and Dwight Howard added 14 points and 16 rebounds for the Hornets, who have won six of their last nine.

Nuggets 104, Trail Blazers 101

In Denver, Jamal Murray scored a career-high 38 points, including a three-point play in the final minute, and Denver beat Portland.

Nikola Jokic had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Will Barton hit four free throws in

Slumping Bucks fire Kidd, Prunty takes over coaching chores

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Seeking change amid mid-season struggles, the Milwaukee Bucks fired coach Jason Kidd on Monday after a slide that left a team with designs on challenging the NBA's best in eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

It was a surprising end to Kidd's three-plus-season tenure in Milwaukee, during which the Bucks made the playoffs twice, exiting in the first round each time. Giannis Antetokounmpo turned into an All-Star under his watch,

and the Bucks were considered an emerging force in the East at the start of the season.

But the Bucks had lost four of five to fall to 23-22 going into Monday night's game against Phoenix and had been prone to defensive lapses, especially on the perimeter. Turnovers were an issue of late as well.

General manager Jon Horst, who was promoted from director of basketball operations in June, said it was time for a change. Kidd was fired hours before the Bucks

beat the Suns 109-105.

Assistant coach Joe Prunty will serve as interim coach for the rest of the season, co-owner Wes Edens said in an interview before the game.

Under Kidd, the Bucks had a regular-season record of 139-152.

"A general manager in the NHL had a statement once: 'If something is inevitable, why wait?'" Horst said at a news conference.

Horst added that the decision was made "relatively quickly," and was not in the

works through the season.

"We just felt that we got to a point in the season where this team could do more and could perform at a different level in a different way and (we are) looking for a fresh approach and different voice in leadership for the team," Horst said.

Kidd was hired a few months after a group led by Edens and Mark Lasry bought the team in April 2014. The Bucks traded two future second-draft picks to the Brooklyn Nets.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass.

(AP)—In the two-week run-up to the Super Bowl, the New England Patriots will face plenty of questions about two things critical to the team's success: Tom Brady's right hand and Rob Gronkowski's head.

Brady answered most of the concerns about whether the hand injury would hinder him with a strong performance in New England's AFC championship game victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Gronkowski, meanwhile, will likely spend at least part of this week going through the concussion protocol. He suffered the injury on a helmet-to-helmet hit from Jacksonville safety Barry Church.

Brady, Gronk begin Super Bowl bye week on mend from injuries

The game-changing tight end is Brady's favorite target, and he missed last season's Super Bowl run after undergoing season-ending back surgery.

There was no update from the Patriots on Gronk's status Monday, but he was at the facility for team meetings.

"He was in pretty good spirits today when I spoke to him," special teams captain Matt Slater said.

Recently, New England has fared well when Gronkowski has been sidelined. But that hasn't always been the case.

The Patriots had plenty of time to adjust to his absence in

2016, when he played just eight games before the surgery. They also had Martellus Bennett to pick up the slack.

Since the start of last season, New England is 12-1 without Gronk. In those games, the Patriots' points per game actually increased from 28.6 to 28.8, although their yards per play declined from 8.1 to 7.6.

The offense was also better without him on third down and in the red zone. Over the past two seasons it converted on 49.3 percent of its chances on

third down and scored touchdowns on 66 percent of its red zone trips without him, compared to 45 percent on third down and scoring touchdowns on 62.6 percent of red zone trips when he played.

From his rookie season in 2010 through 2015, his absence had a much greater impact.

The Patriots were 12-7 without Gronkowski over that span, averaging 31.5 points per game with him and 26.3 without him. The offense's average yards per pass attempt

also fell from 7.8 with him to 6.6 without him.

Before he was injured, Gronkowski passed Dallas Clark to become the NFL's career leader for postseason yards at the position. And if the concussion were to sideline him for the Super Bowl, there's not much depth behind him. The only tight ends on New England's roster are Dwayne Allen and Jacob Hollister.

Allen has 10 receptions for 86 yards and a touchdown this season. Hollister has four catches for 42 yards and was inactive against Jacksonville.

Offensive coordinator Josh



McDaniels said there is always a plan to adapt to injuries.

"You have to make some adjustments. We always go into the game with a certain idea of how we want to try to play it," he said. "It certainly doesn't always play out the way that you wanted it to or that you had hoped to or designed it to, but that happens in every game."

"So, everybody understands that that's part of the game and when that happens, you just have to embrace whatever role you need to take on to help the team win."

Brady still has stitches in his right thumb. He hopes to have them removed sometime this week.

Djokovic bows to Chung, misses quarterfinals



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Six-time champion Novak Djokovic was stunned in straight sets by Hyeon Chung not long after Tennys Sandgren upset No. 5 Dominic Thiem at the Australian Open.

The season-opening major often throws up unexpected results, but the back-to-back upsets Monday resulted in a longshot of a quarterfinal: Chung, the first Korean to reach the last eight at a Grand Slam, vs. 97th-ranked Sandgren, who had never won a match at a major or beaten a top 10 player until last week.

The 58th-ranked Chung relentlessly attacked Djokovic—who is playing his first tournament since Wimbledon because of an injured right elbow—in the 7-6 (4), 7-5, 7-6 (3) fourth-round win.

He ripped 47 winners, including a forehand on the slide and at full stretch on the baseline that put him within two points of victory.

Chung credited the usually athletic Djokovic, who needed a medical timeout in the second set for a massage on his sore elbow, for the inspiration.

“When I’m young, I’m just trying to copy Novak because he’s my idol,” Chung said. “I can’t believe this tonight. Dreams come true tonight.”

Djokovic, who winced and grimaced throughout the match — particularly when stretching for backhands, said he’d need to reassess the treatment for his elbow. But he said he didn’t want his injuries to detract from Chung’s win.

“Amazing performance,” Djokovic said. “Impressive. Whenever he was in trouble, he came up with some unbelievable shots. Just from the back of the court, you know, he was like a wall.”

The 26-year-old Sandgren, who entered the season’s opening major ranked 97th, missed a match point in the fourth set but held on for a 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (7), 6-3 win over Thiem. It followed up his earlier victory over 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka.

“I don’t know if this is a dream or not—all you guys are here, so maybe it’s not,” he said in an on-court TV interview after his 3-hour, 54-minute fourth-round win. “I’m not in my underwear, so maybe it’s not a dream.”

Sandgren is only the second man in 20 years to reach the quarterfinals on his debut at Melbourne Park.

He converted half of his eight break-point chances, and fended off 10 of the 12 he faced against Thiem, and hit 63 winners against 38 un-



forced errors in the biggest win of his life.

“Trying to keep riding the wave,” said Sandgren, who was named after his great-grandfather and who comes from Tennessee.

Defending champion Roger Federer had no real difficul-

ties in reaching the Australian Open quarterfinals for the 14th time, accounting for Marton Fucsovics 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

The 19-time major winner had never played Fucsovics but had beaten his coach — Attila Savolt — here in the second round in 2002.

Federer will renew a lengthy rivalry next against Tomas Berdych, who returned to the quarterfinals for the seventh time at Melbourne Park with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 win over Fabio Fognini.

The win over Fucsovics was Federer’s first day match

of the 2018 tournament, and he joked about needing sunglasses and a towel for the beach but said really the only change was to set the alarm for a different time.

Angelique Kerber, the only Grand Slam singles winner remaining in the women’s draw,

South Korea’s Chung Hyeon reacts after winning a point against Serbia’s Novak Djokovic during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

was up earlier, and got a serious wakeup call.

For a while it appeared Kerber’s progression could unravel against No. 88 Hsieh Su-wei, a former top-ranked doubles player with a double-handed grip on both sides, until she regained momentum for a 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 win. That earned Kerber a quarterfinal spot against U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys.

With a mix of slice and chips, lobs and bunts, whippy half-volleys and wristy cross-court ground strokes off both wings, Hsieh pushed Kerber to the extremes.

“Credit to her. She played an unbelievable match,” said Kerber, who won the Australian and U.S. Open titles in 2016 and is on a 13-match winning streak to start 2018. “I was feeling I was running everywhere.”

Keys returned to the quarterfinals here for the first time in three years with a 6-3, 6-2 win over No. 8-seeded Caroline Garcia, and is yet to drop a set so far.

Sanchez moves to Man United, gets richest deal in Premier League

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Alexis Sanchez arrived at Old Trafford on Monday to put the finishing touches to his bumper Manchester United contract when he was welcomed to the club by its greatest manager.

Alex Ferguson was spotted chatting to Sanchez and his representative outside the ground, eight years after trying—but failing—to bring the Chile international to United from Italian team Udinese.

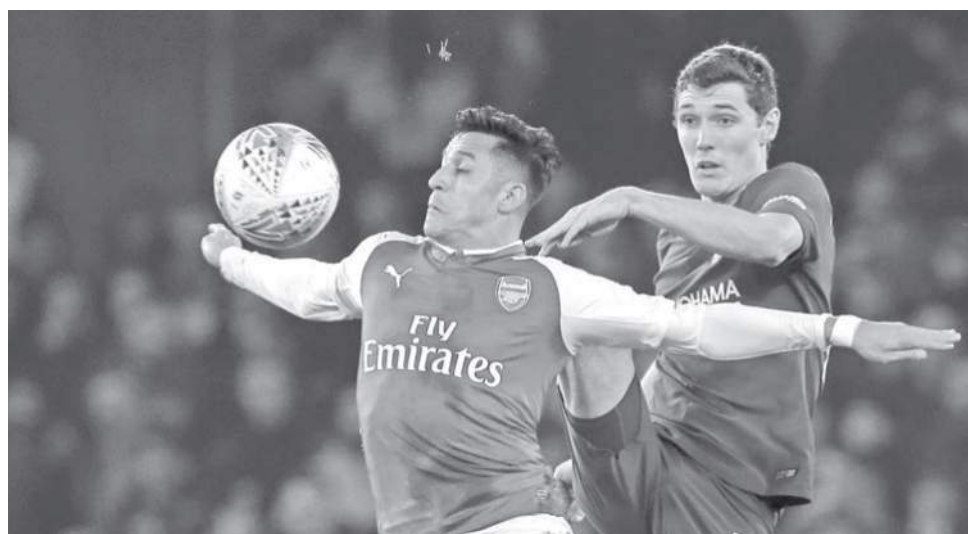
A tireless and direct runner with a natural inclination to attack, Sanchez would likely have been a good fit for United under Ferguson, who quit in 2013 after nearly 27 trophy-filled years.

He looks to be just the player United needs now, too.

Current United manager Jose Mourinho isn’t short of forward options—Romelu Lukaku, Anthony Martial, Marcus Rashford, Jesse Lingard and Juan Mata are Mourinho’s choices in attack—but Sanchez will offer something else, like a young Wayne Rooney did a decade ago.

Explosiveness. Aggression. Unpredictability.

Mourinho likes his at-



Arsenal’s Alexis Sanchez, left, battles the ball against Chelsea’s Andreas Christensen during the English League Cup semifinal, first leg, soccer match between Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

tackers to fit in to an overall team framework, keeping it solid and in a good shape with and without the ball. Sanchez might just be that player to provide that spark and off-the-cuff flair that regular match-goers at Old Trafford love to see.

“Attack, attack, attack” is a chant that often swirls around the home of United and it was a philosophy that came naturally to Ferguson’s trophy-winning teams.

That could easily be Sanchez’s motto, too.

No wonder he is being handed the No. 7 jersey that so any greats—George Best, Eric Cantona, David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo among them—have worn over the years.

Expect Sanchez to start life at United either on the right of a front three, effectively replacing Juan Mata in a position he played at Barcelona from 2011-14, or in a central role behind Lukaku. He will immediately excite

the fans with his hunger and warrior spirit.

Last season, as it became increasingly clear that Ar-

senal wouldn’t be his club for much longer, Sanchez was regularly seen remon-

strating with his teammates, who—in his eyes—weren’t matching his will to win. One example came in a Champions League last-16 match at Bayern Munich, when he was seen crouching near the touchline—a long way from any other

Arsenal player—looking utterly fed up as the German side scored its last goal in a 5-1 win.

Some called it petulance. For others, it showed that he cared.

It was telling that Wenger stressed, in his farewell remarks about Sanchez, that the forward was “committed until the last minute” and “practicing with full power.”

Similarly, Sanchez said on Instagram that he “always gave 100%, until the last day,” criticizing “people (former club players) who have spoken with no knowledge of what happens inside the club and cause damage.”

Like with Rooney, there’s something of the street footballer in Sanchez, who had humble beginnings -- his mother, Martina, sold fish for a living and he used to play barefoot in a style that made him look like he “was dodging rocks.”

Now, he’ll be earning a reported weekly wage of 400,000 pounds (\$560,000)—possibly making him the highest-paid player in the Premier League—at what he perceives to be “the biggest club in the world.”

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield is getting a needed facelift in time for the opening of the Saipan Little League Baseball and the Saipan Baseball League next month.

The SBL concluded its Masters and Under 25 division finals last week, giving the Northern Marianas Sports Association staff ample time to complete the improvement. NMSA staff began with the project yesterday, scraping off some of the dirt to level the infield. Some of the dirt will also be used for the pitcher's mound.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi, who is also the SBL coordinator, said the minor renovation would be done before both leagues open next month.

"It's just for improvement purposes. It's only a matter of couple days. No need to worry, it will be done in no time. The [Saipan] Little League and SBL openings will not be disrupted," said Rogolifoi.

'Tan Ko' field gets facelift



A worker uses a backhoe loader in leveling the infield of the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield yesterday. Improvement at the baseball field is being done in preparation for the opening of the 2018 Saipan Baseball League and 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball next month.

JON PEREZ

The SLLB hopes to open its season on Feb. 3 with the Juniors and Seniors divisions games to be played at the "Tan Ko" baseball field, which will also be used in the upcoming SBL tournament tentatively

set to start on Feb. 5.

Nine teams have signed up for the 2018 SBL season led by the defending champion BSI Aces. Completing the cast are last year's runners-up Falcons, 2016 title-holders

C.K. Bears, D9ers, Blue Jays, GSM, Titanium, Outlaws, and Mariners.

Meanwhile, NMSA is also in the process of completing repair work at the Oleai Sports Complex's center field

through the assistance of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The grass was already removed and leveling may start next week. NMSA and other personnel will sift the dirt (to separate it from the grass) so they could use it again by laying it on the field.

The field work at Oleai Sports Complex is being done in preparation for Saipan's hosting of the 2018 Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships set from June 14 to 16. Repairs and other renovations at the sports complex are expected to be done in April, the latest, and more than three years before the 2021 Pacific Mini Games is held here.

MIBF

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15 to 28 in Yap.

"Players on Rota and Tinian will come here and still have to go through the process. They still have to work their way to be selected on the team," Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Getting selected as representatives of Rota and Tinian is not a guarantee that you are already a member of the national team. Even the players here on Saipan will go through the tryout," added Rangamar, who will coach both squads and also the Commonwealth's athletics team.

Before setting the dates for the tryouts, MIBF initially planned to come up with a selection for both national teams.

"But we decided to change

it, since it's much better to hold tryouts so we can see the different skill levels of the players," the MIBF official said.

The many-time national coach said that aside from getting several tall players, he is also looking for versatile members of both national squads.

"I hope to form teams that have all-around players. They handle the ball, get rebounds, and shoot. They must know the little things. I don't want one-dimensional players. I'm going to look at players with more athleticism and have good outside shooting. These are my criteria and I'm going to look for them during the tryouts."

For more information, call Rangamar at 2346672 or at email eli_rang@yahoo.com.

Cubs having active talks with Darvish



CHICAGO

(AP)—The

Chicago Cubs are having active talks with free agent Yu Darvish, hoping to add the right-hander to their rotation as they try for a second championship in three seasons.

The 31-year-old Darvish is one of the top players available in a slow-moving market this winter. He finished last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers, helping them reach the World Series.

A person with direct knowledge of the discussions confirmed the talks to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday night because there was no agreement in place. The Texas Rangers, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Twins and New York Yankees also have expressed interest in Darvish.

The conversations come amid reports the Cubs have agreed to a minor league deal with Chris Gimenez, who regularly caught Darvish while they were in Texas and developed



AP

In this Nov. 1, 2017, file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Yu Darvish throws against the Houston Astros during the first inning of Game 7 of baseball's World Series in Los Angeles. Free agent pitcher Darvish said Monday, Dec. 18, he had a "very good meeting" with the Chicago Cubs.

a trusted working relationship with the Japanese pitcher.

Darvish began a successful transition from Japan to the majors in 2012, going 16-9 with a 3.90 ERA in 29 starts for the Rangers. He was traded to Los Angeles in July and went 4-3 with a 3.44 ERA in

nine starts with the Dodgers down the stretch.

Darvish shut down the Cubs in Game 3 of the NL Championship Series, striking out seven while pitching 6 1/3 innings of one-run ball in a 6-1 victory at Wrigley Field. But he was hit hard in the World

Series against Houston, managing just five outs in each of his two starts, and there was talk he was tipping his pitches.

The addition of Darvish would be a big boost for Chicago, which has made it to the NLCS in each of the past three years, winning the World Series in 2016. The Cubs also have looked at bringing back pitcher Jake Arrieta, who is a free agent after a successful run in the Windy City, but Jon Lester, Kyle Hendricks and Jose Quintana are back from last year's club and Tyler Chatwood joined the rotation in December with a \$38 million, three-year contract.

In San Francisco, Center fielder Austin Jackson agreed to terms on a \$6 million, two-year contract with the Giants on Monday, filling the club's top remaining void just a few weeks before pitchers and catchers report to spring training.

San Francisco announced the acquisition Monday, a week after the Giants traded for right fielder Andrew McCutchen.

OVER

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ning to hold more coaching courses this year.

"After this D license, we plan to hold C license course in June. I expect some national team players to join the course," he said.

Youth players from Kanoa Football Club, Shirley's FC, Paire FC, MP United FC, Tan-Holdings FC, Matansa FC, and Southern United FC made up majority of the participants in the coaching course, which is very timely as NMIFA will open the spring youth league next month.

Meanwhile, NMIFA is also planning to kick off the spring season of the M-League next month.

The target opening date is Feb. 18 and interested teams are asked to send two representatives to the coaches/managers preseason meeting on Feb. 1 at 6pm at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

M-League will have competitions in Divisions A and B and interested squads are requested to confirm their participation in this season's tournament on or before June 31. M-League organizers are also reminding teams about the Feb. 9 deadline for submission of roster.

GSM

From Page 28

through the first half, 10-5, before it pounded Fiesta Resort with a backbreaking 16-1 scoring surge. Alliyah Fernandez anchored GSM's breakaway, drilling 8 points when she reported back for duty after getting a brief breather in the first half. Fernandez earlier knocked in two straight baskets to start things out for GSM. Siblings Anna Lei and Eleina Santos and Cassandra Camacho also hit baskets in the GSM's run for their com-

manding 26-6 halftime edge.

While scoring was not a problem for GSM, it was for Fiesta Resort, as the latter was held scoreless for nearly eight minutes and made only a free throw, courtesy of a split from Britanny Wally. Fiesta Resort never recovered from thereon, as it failed to find players that could counter GSM's shooting and relied heavily on Irish Pagarao. Pagarao was the lone Fiesta Resort player to score more than a field goal in the blowout loss to GSM.

GSM, on the other hand, drew double figures from

three players. Fernandez had a game-high 15 points, while Cassandra Camacho and Eleina Santos chipped in 11 and 10, respectively.

Meanwhile, Quina Flores made a shot just a few meters away from the halfcourt line in the dying seconds of the game to lift *Marianas Variety* to the close victory.

The basket was Flores' only field goal in the second half after she registered Marianas Variety's first 2 points and added a pair of free throws early in the first frame.

Louisa Han and Tawnie

Manibusan also helped *Marianas Variety's* cause, as their baskets in the homestretch kept the team in the game. Han made 6 points in the second half, while Manibusan posted 8 straight markers in the homestretch for a total of 13 points. Mikky Kautz added 12 points in *Marianas Variety's* tough win, while Jeraldine Castillo led IT&E with her 11.

In other results, CTSI built a 27-11 halftime advantage over Shirley's Coffee Shop and never relinquished its big lead to get win No. 6.

Chanel Espinosa top-scored

for CTSI with her 12 points.

Second Game

CTSI 51—Espinosa 12, M. Alegre 11, J. Alegre 11, Watanabe 4, Echavez 2, Pablo 2, Sabino 2.

Shirley's 22 — Santos 7, Surima 6, Phan 4, Lumbad 3, Manacop 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-11, 51-22.

Third Game

Marianas Variety 49 — Manibusan 13, Kautz 12, Han 8, Villagomez 8, Flores 7, Chinen 2.

IT&E 48 — Jeraldine Cas-

tillo 11, Pena 10, Lumabi 10, Garon 10, Hemley 3, Olivos 2, Jerlyn Castillo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 49-48.

Fourth Game

GSM 61 — Fernandez 15, C. Camacho 11, E. Santos 10, Deleon Guerrero 6, Pangelinan 6, Kenty 4, An. Santos 3, S. Camacho 2, King 2, D. Camacho 2.

Fiesta Resort 22 — Pagarao 14, Wally 4, Millare 2, Tuazon 1, Borja 1.

Scoring by halves: 26-6, 61-22.

Saipan Baseball League Under 25 Division

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



The Blue Jays pose for a photo after their nail-biting 10-9 win over the IPI Pirates in the battle for third place in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League's Under 25 division last week at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.



GSM Cubs sponsor Mark Boyer Sablan, second left, joins, from left, Cubs assistant coach Jerome Delos Santos, coach Mart Naputi, and manager A.J. Murig for a group photo after their title win over the Tanapag Falcons, 9-8.



GSM Cubs' Joe Palacios, center, receives the Finals MVP award after pitching four innings in relief and helping their team clinch the championship. Joining him in the photo are Saipan Baseball League officials Ben Jones Sr., left, and Bernard Cabrera.



Kiku Lizama, center, receives his regular season MVP award from SBL board members Ben Jones, left, and Bernard Cabrera.



GSM Cubs' Keoni Kaipat, center, claps as he heads to home plate en route to scoring the winning run in their finals game against the Tanapag Falcons.

Tanapag Falcons pitcher J.J. Lifoifo, left, listens to some instructions from manager Doru Camacho.



GSM Cubs manager A.J. Murig, second left, and Mart Naputi, third left, proudly wear their medals after being named the Manager and Coach of the Year, respectively.



The Blue Jays' Virgil Secharmidal, left, waits for the signal from catcher Quinson Blas before throwing a pitch in their battle for third against the IPI Pirates.



Pelicans pull
off victory over
Bulls in 2OT

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Djokovic
bows to
Chung, misses
quarterfinals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GSM Lady Ol'Aces unbeaten



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The GSM Lady Ol'Aces' Eleina Santos, left, takes off for an open layup as sister Ana Lei shields her from a Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan defender during the first half of their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The GSM Lady Ol'Aces finished the elimination round undefeated following a 61-22 rout of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



GSM wrapped up the double-round robin elimination with an impressive 10-0 record, while Fiesta ended up with a 7-3 mark to place second behind the unbeaten team. Both GSM and Fiesta are playing in the playoffs this Saturday and will be paired against No. 4 *Marianas Variety* and No. 3 CTSI, respectively.

CTSI earned a 6-4 mark going into the playoff round after a similar easy win over Shirley's Coffee Shop (0-10), 51-22, while *Marianas Variety* posted a 5-5 slate following a nail-biting 49-48 victory over IT&E (2-8).

The battle of the Top 2 teams in the girls division was one-sided, as GSM's firepower proved to be too much for Fiesta Resort. GSM was ahead by only 5 midway

See GSM on Page 26

MIBF eyes athletic, versatile players



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Almost's Carl Aldan, third left, drives against three Paki 3's defenders during the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation-organized tournament late last year. MIBF will hold tryouts for the CNMI national teams that will compete in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

Over 20 take D license coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 20 individuals attended the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-

organized D license coaching course held last weekend at the Koblerville Elementary School.

NMIFA technical director



Michiteru Mita, who facilitated the course, said the classes are divided into practical and theoretical sessions and will run for four days (two weekends).

The final week of classes will be held this Saturday and Sunday, also at KES.

"NMIFA would like to increase our pool of coaches so we will not only improve our

coaching standard, but also support our soccer and sports communities," said Mita, adding that individuals who will complete the course will receive certificates.

"I'm very happy to see the participants' seriousness and their positive learning attitude. We had very intensive practical and theoretical sessions and participants played against each other in the practical session and discovered the fun part of soccer," Mita explained.

The NMIFA technical director also said they are plan-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-organized D license coaching course pose for a photo at the conclusion of their classes last weekend at the Koblerville Elementary School.



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Mariana Islands Basketball Federation development officer Elias Rangamar is looking to form national men's and women's teams built around athleticism and versatility.

Rangamar will be starting the tryouts for Saipan next month with the women's side taking the court first on Feb. 5 from 6pm to 8pm and on Feb. 10 from 1pm to 3pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Men's tryouts will be held from 3:30pm to 5:30pm on Feb. 10 and from 3pm to 5pm on Feb. 17. Tinian and Rota will have their own tryouts with the chosen players joining the pool on Saipan.

Players selected for the national teams will represent the CNMI in the 2018 Micronesia Games that will run from July

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